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Van Buren County Sheriff's Office honors citizen for heroic actions

Holly, shown in center, received a Letter of Commendation during the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners meeting by Sheriff Daniel Abbott, right, and Undersheriff Casey Davis, left.

On March 24, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office formally recognized Ricky Holly for his courageous and selfless actions during a residential structure fire that occurred on Feb. 28, in Pine Grove Township.

Holly was presented with a Letter of Commendation during the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners meeting by Sheriff Daniel Abbott and Undersheriff Casey Davis. The recognition highlighted Holly's extraordinary bravery and quick response to a life-threatening emergency.

On the morning of Feb. 28, Holly observed heavy smoke coming from a residence located in the 11000 block of County Road 653 while traveling past the home with another citizen. Realizing the potential danger and believing the residence may be occupied, he immediately stopped to assist.

Without regard for his own safety, Holly entered the smoke-filled residence to locate and help any occupants. While inside, he opened doors to allow several animals to escape and conducted a search of the home. During his search, he located an adult female who was unable to exit the residence due to physical limitations.

Despite hazardous conditions, Holly successfully assisted the woman out of the home and to safety prior to the arrival of emergency personnel. His actions also contributed to the safe escape of multiple animals from the residence.

"The swift and decisive actions taken by Mr. Holly undoubtedly prevented serious injury or loss of life. His courage, compassion, and willingness to act in a dangerous situation exemplifies the highest standards of community service," said Sheriff Abbott.

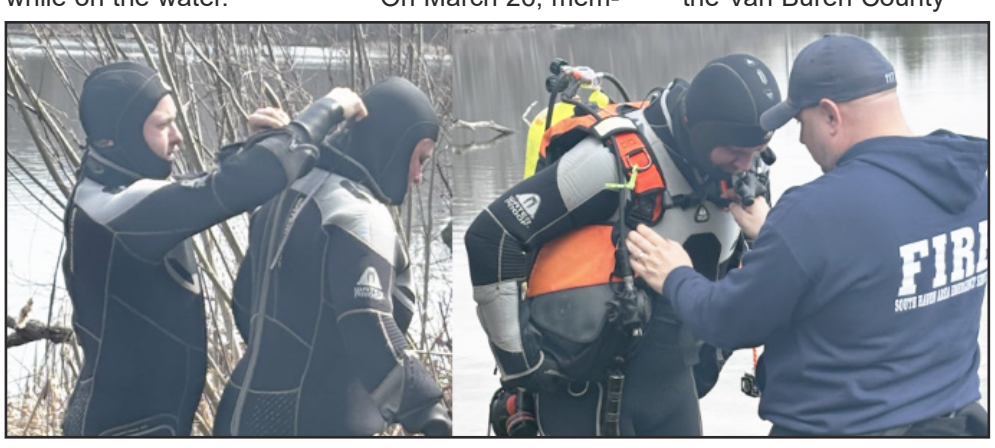
Sheriff Abbott said the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office extends its sincere appreciation to Ricky Holly for his heroic efforts and commends him for setting an outstanding example for the community.

Submerged Stolen Vehicle Recovered from Wolf Lake

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported on March 25, a detective sergeant with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office was contacted by a citizen who was fishing on Wolf Lake in Almena Township. The individual reported observing a suspicious object on his Garmin LiveScope sonar system while on the water.

The citizen provided photographs captured from the forward-facing sonar, which appeared to show a vehicle submerged in approximately 25 feet of water. The detective sergeant coordinated with the Van Buren County Dive Team and supplied the location and images for further investigation.

On March 26, members of the Van Buren County Dive Team conducted a dive operation on Wolf Lake and successfully located the submerged vehicle. The vehicle was identified as a Dodge Ram pickup that had previously been reported stolen out of Kalamazoo County in October 2025.



During the operation, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Drone Team assisted by providing overhead aerial support and safety monitoring for personnel on the water.

Due to being submerged for approximately six months, the vehicle had become a habitat for aquatic life. During recovery operations, dive team members took care to safely return fish and other wildlife back into Wolf Lake.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Indivisible Paw Paw marks one-year of protests with third No Kings rally

On Saturday, March 28, in Paw Paw, the local Indivisible group marked its one-year anniversary of hosting peaceful protests at the same time joining millions of Americans in an organized day of action for the third No Kings event. The rally started at Maple Lake Amphitheatre with music provided by The Great Lakes Brass, a New Orleans-style second line brass band. Speaking briefly at the event were Michigan Sen. Sean McCann-D and Diop Harris, both of whom are vying for the 4th District U.S. Congressional seat; and Daniel Oropeza with the United Farm Workers Foundation. An estimated 450 people attended the event. A total of $255 was collected for Eleanor's Pantry and $65 for Decatur Human Services. *Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod*

Fire engulfs Columbia Twp mobile home

Firefighters from five departments responded to a fire that engulfed a Columbia Township mobile home early Sunday morning.

The departments were dispatched to 18th Avenue near 53rd Street, west of Breedsville in Van Buren County, at 3:12 a.m.

Responding was the Columbia Township Fire Department with mutual aid provided by the Bangor Community, Bloomingdale, Lee Township and South Haven Emergency Services (SHAES).

The lone occupant escaped without injury.

The fire appeared to have started on the front porch and spread throughout the structure.

One firefighter suffered a cut to a hand and was treated on-scene by LIFE ambulance personnel. He continued his firefighting tasks.

Donations made to area food pantries

The Gobles Food Pantry recently received a financial donation from the Paw Paw -Lawton Masonic Lodge. Shown accepting the check is Pastor Sheila Baker, and at left, Keith Shaw, Paw Paw - Lawton Masonic Lodge member. ~ Photo courtesy/Gobles Food Pantry

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The Special Teams at Paw Paw Elementary and Later Elementary schools recently donated $2,000 to Eleanor's Pantry, Paw Paw. The money was raised from their POP fundraiser. Eleanor's Pantry Executive Director Sue Miller accepted the donation. ~ Photo courtesy/Eleanor's Pantry

Commissioners seek funding for new 911 Dispatch/ Emergency Operations Center

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - On March 24, Van Buren County Commissioners approved the submission of an application for Congressional Directed Spending of $3 million for the purpose of constructing a new 911 Dispatch/Emergency Operations Center.

(911/EOC) CDS is an annual program where local units of government can apply for funds to implement high-impact public projects. This is sponsored by U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, who is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. This request would fall under the Homeland Security Subcommittee, which has a specific program for 911/EOCs.

911 Dispatch is a critical component of emergency response infrastructure, handling crises efficiently and coordinating resources. Emergency Operations Centers provide a single site where all the necessary resources can be together during large-scale emergencies such as natural disasters or a widespread incident.

Commissioners said with the start-up of Palisades, a fully operational 911/EOC is essential because not only is it required in order for the nuclear power plant to operate, but it will also connect various agencies (public safety, fire, medical, etc), support logistics, and strategic planning.

Supporting the construction of a 911 Dispatch/EOC in Van Buren County in conjunction with the restart of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant is a high-impact and sound investment in public safety, national security, and regional energy resilience.

It will enhance emergency response capabilities, ensure that the local community is better prepared for potential nuclear emergencies, and help ensure the successful operation of the plant. This aligns with both federal homeland security objectives and the safety of the public, making it a compelling case for funding under the CDS program.

Commissioners said they are developing updated cost estimates, but the projections from previous studies, considering inflation, show an approximate cost of $10 million. Commissioners further stated there is county-controlled land for the dispatch center.

Commissioners are requesting $3 million from the CDS program. Other contributions will be made up of county distributions from General Fund Balance and potential partners like the state, private contributions and foundations. If there are differences remaining, a general obligation bond could be issued to be paid from captured increased tax revenue from the Palisades restart.

In another area, commissioners approved the acceptance of the 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) of $8,908, and authorized Board Chair Kurt Doroh to sign the grant agreement.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the Michigan State Police, has allocated the 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds to assist local governments in preparing for all hazards and improving emergency management capabilities.

The 2025 EMPG grant allocation to Van Buren County of $8,908 represents 8.498 percent of the salary and fringe benefits of the County's Emergency Program Manager (Coordinator).

The acceptance of the grant will assist the county in meeting the financial obligations related to the Emergency Management Program while enhancing the county's ability to respond to emergencies and disasters.

Commissioners approved a request from Van Buren County Specialty Courts to apply for $1 million in funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance to support and strengthen the county's Swift and Sure Sanction Probation Program.

The program serves individuals who are at significant risk of incarceration and provides a structured, accountability-based alternative grounded in evidence-based practices. Through intensive supervision, frequent and randomized drug testing, graduated sanctions, and coordinated access to treatment and housing supports, the program promotes behavior change while protecting public safety.

Swift and Sure is designed to reduce pretrial recidivism, interrupt cycles of substance use and criminal behavior, and ensure consistent judicial oversight for participants who may otherwise pose a continued risk to the community.

The proposed funding will support key personnel essential to program implementation and fidelity, including:

- 15 percent of a case management position
- 30 percent of a program assistant position
- 50 percent of a drug testing staff member.

Maintaining adequate staffing levels ensures timely responses to violations, consistent participant contact, and adherence to the swift and certain model that is central to the program's effectiveness.

The Specialty Court Program operates on a reimbursement basis, meaning that program costs are initially incurred by the county and reimbursed following the submission and approval of eligible expenses. As such, the county's support in providing upfront funding is essential to ensure the program's continuity and effectiveness while awaiting reimbursement.

Commissioners approved the Van Buren Youth Fair Association's sublease of approximately 30 acres of fairground property to Vassar Farms for the 2026 agricultural season.

Under the lease agreement dated Feb. 25, 2014, between Van Buren County and the Van Buren Youth Fair Association, the association is permitted to sublet the leased premises or any part thereof with written consent from the county. The fair association has negotiated a one-year sublease agreement with Vassar Farms for use of approximately 30 acres of tillable farmland beginning in Spring 2026 through Dec. 31, 2026, for $3,150. This portion of land, located in Hartford Township, is currently not in use during the off-season and would otherwise remain fallow. Authorizing the sublease supports beneficial agricultural use of the land, improves soil health through responsible cultivation, reduces weed and pest issues associated with unused acreage.

All income generated from the sublease will go directly to the Van Buren Youth Fair Association to support youth programming and maintenance of fairground facilities.

Commissioners approved the updated Van Buren County Planning Commission Bylaws as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The Van Buren County Planning Commission recently reviewed and recommended revisions to its bylaws to improve operational efficiency and clarify several administrative provisions. The Planning Commission approved the revised bylaws and requested final approval from the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners as required under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008.

The most significant revision reduces the membership of the Planning Commission from 11 to nine members. This change is intended to improve meeting attendance and ensure the commission can more consistently achieve a quorum for conducting business.

Additional revisions to the bylaws include minor clerical corrections, clarification of staff support roles, and updates to officer nomination language to improve clarity and consistency with current operating practices. The core purpose, authority, and responsibilities of the Planning Commission remain unchanged.

Commission membership of 11 to nine members will result in a small reduction in per diem and mileage reimbursement expenses associated with Planning Commission meetings. No additional financial impact on the county is anticipated.

Commissioners approved the submission of the FY 26-27 Michigan Indigent Defense Commission annual grant application. It is a renewal, Oct. 1, 2026, to Sept. 30, 2027, of the existing MIDC Grant that funds the Office of the Public Defender. This is the third operation after separating from Allegan County and is basically an as-is renewal request that takes into consideration increased personnel costs and possibly Juvenile Lifer cases.

The total grant will be approximately $3.1 million and requires a county maintenance effort of $308,000, which will be budgeted. An approximation of the grant has been given because, with the date to submit the grant application being moved up, the county is still awaiting further information. That approximation is based on last year's budget.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

The Lucky Wolf announces sale of business

PAW PAW - The Lucky Wolf is Paw Paw's gem of a performance venue, cafe; and bar located in the historic Paw Paw Playhouse, formerly First Baptist of Paw Paw, built in 1857.

India and Jason Deibler-Love purchased the playhouse in 2022 and transformed it into what it is today, with a lot of help from their team. India died unexpectedly in 2023, leaving Jason and their three small children to push forward with support of the community, helping create this inclusive hub for the creative and "third place" for many.

"It is with optimism and happiness, albeit a little bittersweet, that I would like to share that the Smallcombs will be buying the Lucky Wolf and carrying India's torch forward," said Deibler-Love.

From the Smallcombes: "We are deeply honored to carry forward the exceptional foundation established by India and Jason at The Lucky Wolf. We remain committed to honoring India's vision by nurturing an inclusive space that inspires creativity and connection within the community."

Their son, Colin, was one of the very first to join The Lucky Wolf team, working side by side with India. She quickly became a mentor to him, taking him under her wing and helping him grow into a talented barista and mixologist while sharing her love and knowledge of the hospitality industry. Not long after, their other son, Caden, joined the team, making it a true family experience.

Both Nate and Karen are Southwest Michigan natives who are passionate about the arts, specialty cocktails, delicious coffee, historic building restorations, and creating outstanding customer service experiences.

Nate and Karen are working closely with Jason throughout this transition to ensure a seamless experience for the patrons and are excited to share that some fun updates are on the way.

Van Buren Youth Initiative is growing

PAW PAW - In a recent update to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners about the Van Buren Youth Initiative (VBYI), leaders shared that local students are seeing more opportunities than ever before thanks to new funding and expanded programs.

This initiative is all about making sure our young people have safe, productive, and fun places to go after the school bell rings.

The program started in 2024 with an initial investment of $950,000 from the county's ARPA funds. So far, the county has used $502,559 of those funds to build a strong foundation for the students. This leaves $447,441 to keep these programs running through the end of 2026.

For every $1 of county funding invested, the initiative has already generated $1.11 in return. This shows that the commitment to local youth is a very wise investment for every taxpayer.

A notable highlight is how the local investment is bringing even more money into Van Buren County. Because of the success of the VBYI, the Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) was awarded a $1,012,860 32n Out-of-School Time (OST) Grant. This grant was provided by MiLEAP, which is the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential.

The money will help expand after-school programs in eight of our local school districts: Bloomingdale, Decatur, Gobles, Hartford, Lawrence, Lawton, Mattawan and South Haven.

It also provides support for the Summer Van Buren Migrant and Multilingual Program, ensuring every student has a seat at the table during the school year and the summer months.

Students are receiving support from several different organizations. A $16,000 grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, along with a $12,000 arts grant from the prior year, will bring local artists directly to the students. By partnering with the South Haven Center for the Arts, the initiative will host hands-on workshops in music and visual arts.

Students are also getting a boost in the classroom thanks to a $10,000 Technology and Media Equipment Grant from the South Haven Area Community Foundation. This is an opportunity for students in rural areas to explore their creativity and use modern tools to learn.

Students have expressed their appreciation for these programs. Students have said that the initiative gives them a sense of "freedom of art" and a place to "meet new people." Most importantly, it gives them something positive to look forward to every single day.

Program leader Erin Kucharski said that the secret to this success is teamwork. She noted that the program coordinator acts as a "connector" between the school districts and community partners. By working together, no resources are wasted and every student can participate, no matter their budget or where they live.

Schools' Vision Alignment Team meets for final session

By James Windell

In the third and final Vision Alignment Team (VAT) meeting on March 24, 2026, facilitators Michael Posthumus and Sara Melton, representatives from Fielding International, framed the session around moving from big vision statements to the practical, "messy middle" of what actually needs to happen day-to-day for our students.

School Superintendent Ana Aleman-Putman said at the beginning of the first VAT session in February, 2026, that the purpose of the meetings was to begin crucial work on vision alignment for South Haven Public Schools. "This will impact programming, resource allocation, and the broader strategic plan," Aleman-Putman said. "The district's strategic plan aims to connect decisions and ensure they are designed to support student learning and long-term success, rather than being isolated choices."

Michael Posthumus said that the output from this final session as well as from the two previous sessions will be compiled into a share-back document for participants to confirm accuracy. He went on to say that the compiled community voice will feed into a more formal strategic planning process with district leadership, focused on tangible actions rather than "hoping for a miracle."

Getting down to the work of the evening, Sarah Melton said that the previously identified six RAM Skills for Thriving were shared as verb-based competencies. These skills were: Analyze to understand; Create and discover; Communicate; Collaborate, Care for and contribute; and Self-navigate.

The participants, members of the community along with school representatives, were tasked with picking a difficult, messy, high-pressure young adult scenario and then to test whether the six skills were sufficient to cope with that situation. Common scenarios discussed included transitioning to independence (housing, bills, transportation), toxic work environments, layoffs/job advocacy, roommate conflict, and general "adulting" skills.

Participants noted many students struggle to ask for help due to timidity or a fear of being judged. Work-life expectations and generational communication differences were raised (e.g., differing needs for affirmation, differing communication styles). And practical life-readiness examples surfaced, such as managing money and/or bank accounts, basic cooking, and obtaining documents.

The team members were then directed to use "A or B" style continua for each competency and mark an X (or a "zone") to show where the community might lean. A repeated theme voiced by groups were that many choices felt like a blend, with fundamentals needed before creativity/independence can flourish.

The next task for the team, made up of South Haven residents along with school personnel, was to design Day-in-the-Life learner journey maps and community "power sources." The idea was for each of the groups to create learner journey maps (ideal day-in-the-life) for students of a particular grade in an effort to make the vision concrete.

Reporting out on their Day-in-the-Life maps, one group said that nutrition and food routines were foundational. Another group emphasized frequent interactions between high school seniors and teachers, professors, bus drivers, and peers. A third group included a device to help a student plan their day and goals (scaffolding self-navigation). Also, a 5th grade map emphasized health foundations: sleep hygiene, outdoor time, mental health, exercise, hydration.

Using a slide presentation, Melton shared their tour of South Haven school buildings. She said they noted that South Haven Schools had a strong investment in outdoor spaces (including outdoor dining and outdoor learning/amphitheater-style spaces). They also found abundant breakout spaces for independent/small-group work and "teacher hacks" that create comfortable work areas. Some of the wellbeing features they found included art/beauty, daylighting, softer lighting, plants, soft seating; and a counseling center centrally located in the high school.

The final activity of the session called for small groups to list the strengths of the South Haven community. Participants pointed to the variety of programs and opportunities (for example, fine arts, athletics, and activities) available in the small town of South Haven. Another group said that the city was welcoming and had an inclusive culture and student opportunities. A third group contributed their perception that there is strong interconnectivity across local organizations. And a fourth noted that diversity was a community strength.

In their wrap-up, Posthumus and Melton talked about what the next steps would be. They said that a "vision of success" could come from this discovery phase and that this would then help the school to move into strategic plan development with district leadership. They further stated that a portion of this work will be turned into a community survey (including student input).

In addition, the facilitators will compile and email a document summarizing the three sessions and participants will be asked to review and flag anything misrepresented.

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Happy Easter
We hope your home is filled with family and friends sharing joy and laughter this Easter

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Paw Paw Police Department pays tribute to its officers and others

PAW PAW - The Village of Paw Paw Police Department held a Department Awards and Recognition event on March 24.

Life Saving Awards were presented to the following officers - Officer Jacob Newman, Timothy Munn, Karsten Pica, Samuel Werthman and Ethan Barringer.

Letters of Commendation - Officer Jacob Newman, Officer Timothy Munn and Det/Lieutenant Samuel Carlsen for a pedestrian hit and run investigation.

Officer Samuel Werthman for his enforcement of traffic offenses in the village.

Van Buren County Sergeant Andrew Galer, Deputy Andrea Skinner and Deputy Jason Erickson. Former Paw Paw Police Department officers who came back to the department part time in 2024 to help with a period of low staffing. Also, recognized for this was Part Time Officer Paul Bianco.

Detective/Lieutenant Samuel Carlsen, Corporal Darron Williams, Officer Timothy McMeekan and Officer Jacob Newman were recognized for working while the department was short staffed in 2024.

Accreditation Manager/Ordinance Officer Larry Haynor, Officer Manager Monica Marler and Office Clerk Susan Klein received recognition in their respective areas.

Chief's Award - Detective/Lieutenant Samuel Carlsen for investigative work on multiple major cases from 2022 through 2025.

Years of Service - Corporal Darron Williams was recognized for his 15 years of service to the Village and Citizens of Paw Paw.

Award of Excellence - A special award was presented to the Van Buren County Reserve Division for their dedication to the citizens of Van Buren County and specifically the citizens and Village of Paw Paw. They assist with numerous special events in the village throughout the year. In 2024 Sherrif Abbott was gracious enough to allow reserves to work with an officer during the Warner Concert Series events. This arrangement was made due to low staffing at the police department.

Paw Paw Police Department Chief's Award

Paw Paw Police Department Life Saving Awards

Paw Paw Police Department Letter of Commendation

Paw Paw Police Department Letter of Commendation

Paw Paw Police Department honors sheriff's personnel and reserves

Paw Paw Police Department Part timers working short staffed

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Police Department recently hosted a recognition ceremony honoring individuals and organizations who have demonstrated exemplary service and unwavering support to the department and the greater Paw Paw community over the past year.

During the ceremony, several deputies from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office were individually recognized for their outstanding contributions. In addition, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Reserve Division was presented with a group award in acknowledgment of their collective dedication and service.

These honors reflect the continued commitment of Sheriff's Office personnel to not only countywide responsibilities but also to strong partnerships with local agencies. Throughout 2024, deputies and reserve members provided critical assistance to the Paw Paw Police Department during periods of reduced staffing, including support for large-scale community events, concerts, and seasonal festivals.

Their willingness to step in during times of need ensured the safety and continuity of community events that are vital to Paw Paw's local culture and economy. This collaboration highlights the strength of interagency cooperation and the shared mission of protecting and serving the public.

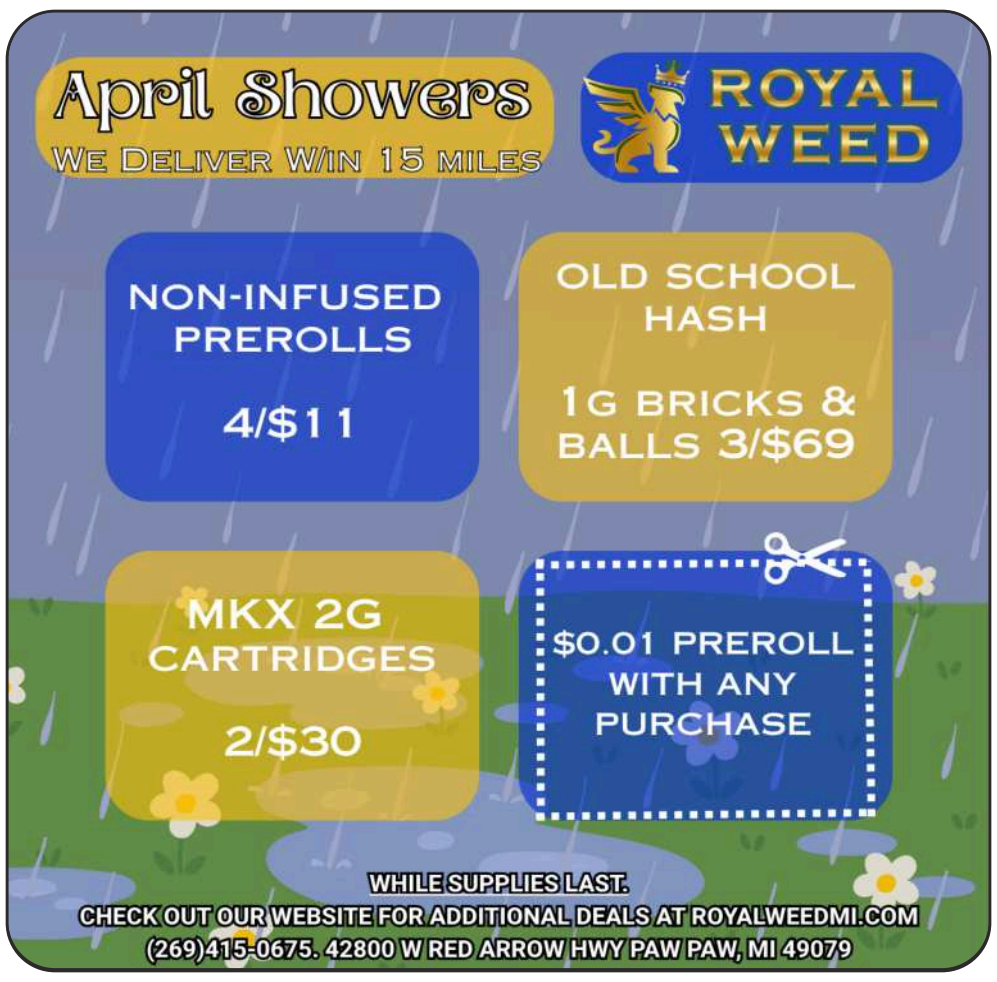
Sheriff Daniel Abbott commended the efforts of those recognized, noting that these partnerships are essential to effective public safety operations.

"This recognition underscores the importance of teamwork between agencies," said Sheriff Abbott. "When local departments and the Sheriff's Office work together, we are able to provide a higher level of service, improve response capabilities, and strengthen the trust we build with the communities we serve."

The collaboration between the Paw Paw Police Department and the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office serves as a model of mutual support, resource sharing, and unified response. By working together, both agencies are better equipped to handle staffing challenges, large public gatherings, and evolving public safety needs.

The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office extends its gratitude to the Paw Paw Police Department for the recognition and looks forward to continued collaboration in serving the residents of Van Buren County and the Village of Paw Paw.

Paw Paw Police Department presents Van Buren County Sheriff's Office with Reserve Award of Excellence



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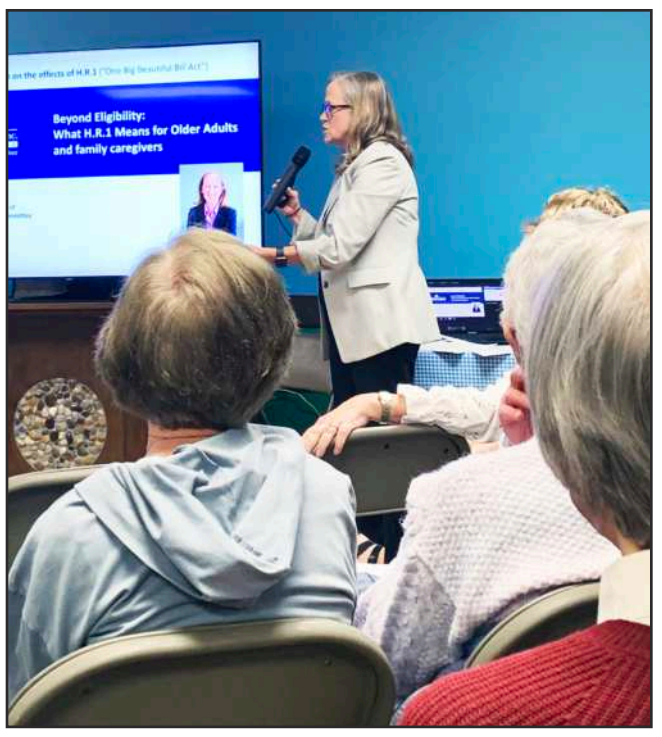
AAUW holds community conversation on Big Beautiful Bill



Christine Vanlandingham

Nicole Hudson

By James Windell

If South Haven's AAUW Public Policy Committee wanted to have a community conversation about how H.R.1 ("One Big Beautiful Bill") may affect people in our area, the many questions and comments from an audience at Church of the Epiphany on Thursday, March 26, 2026 should have convinced them that the community was indeed interested in a conversation.

Two speakers made presentations and took questions from the audience. Leading off was Nicole Hudson, Director of the Office of Oversight & Program Coordination, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS).

Hudson, speaking about H.R.1, focused primarily on Medicaid and emphasized many items in the bill are federally mandated and, thus, the state has limited implementation choices. She flagged the uncertainty related to issues in the bill due to missing federal government guidance on several provisions, although she said that Michigan is already building systems to meet required timelines.

Hudson went over four key Medicaid areas. One of these key areas is work requirements, which she said applies only to the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP)/Medicaid expansion population who are 19 to 64 years old. According to the bill, those who are in the HMP have to renew every six months. All of the work requirements, which include 80 hours a month of approved activities for non-exempt individuals, go into effect on January 1, 2027. Hudson said that qualifying activities include paid work, community service (although the definition of community service has not been handed down by the government), participation in a work program, at least half-time education, or a combination of these activities totaling 80 hours.

Hudson pointed out that there were exceptions to the work requirement of H.R.1 and these exemptions include caretakers of children under the age of 13; foster youth under 26; people participating in a substance use program; disabled veterans; and those who are "medically frail." Unfortunately, the government has not defined what "medical frailty" means.

Hudson said that starting in October, 2026, some legally residing non-citizens will no longer qualify for full Medicaid. Among these are refugees, humanitarian parolees, asylum grantees, certain abused spouses, and victims of human trafficking.

She also told the audience that currently the HMP population in Michigan is around 700,000 people, but that when the bill goes into effect they project that up to 200,000 people could lose their coverage. She added that the consequences of H.R.1 will likely include higher uninsured rates, delayed care, increased emergency department use, more uncompensated care and medical debt, and greater strain on rural hospitals.

After fielding many questions, some of which she could not answer because of the lack of federal government guidance, it was Christine Van Landingham's turn to present.

Van Landingham, who is CEO, Region IV Area Agency on Aging, focused on how changes aimed at ages the 19 to 64 population will have a ripple effect on older adults who are over 65 years of age. These ripple effects she said will be the result of added stress to households, caregivers, and health systems.

She pointed out that one in five Michigan adults are family caregivers. She stated that a concern was that H.R.1 may destabilize caregivers because of Medicaid/SNAP disruptions and unclear "community service" definitions and that this cause increased caregiver strain and raise the demand for Medicaid-funded long-term services.

However, she told the audience that Medicare does not cover prolonged nursing home care, and that home and community-based services (HCBS) help prevent or delay nursing home placement and, in the long run, are cheaper.

Van Landingham, though, did off a "ray of sunshine" that could come out of H.R.1. "Section 71121 creates an optional new HCBS waiver concept to support people with significant needs before they meet nursing-home levels of care," she said.

During the final Q&A portion of the evening, Hudson mentioned the governor's FY27 budget proposal requesting about 585 new staff tied to implementing H.R.1. Medicaid eligibility threshold. Van Landingham said that State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors are available year-round to help people understand Medicare/Medicaid and other options.

The speakers suggested that people contact their member of Congress to support reauthorization/modernization of the Older Americans Act. And that they consider attending advocacy events, such as the Region IV Legislative Forum on April 13, 2026, in Lansing.

First SHAES cadet becomes certified firefighter

(Photo courtesy South Haven Area Emergency Services. Left to right: Don Quinn, Ayden Quinn, Tim Quinn.)

Fire departments across the country are faced with a growing personnel crisis, especially those who rely on volunteer community members for meeting staffing needs.

South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) Executive Director Brandon Hinz decided to do something about it.

Three years ago, Hinz established the SHAES Cadet program for local high school students. While pursuing State of Michigan firefighter certification through an Academy or a School District course, the Cadets experience the profession first-hand by attending SHAES drills with current staff, responding to real-life emergencies and just hanging around the fire hall.

"Neighboring fire departments experienced great success with their FF Cadet programs, so I utilized their guidance in developing our own." Columbia Twp, Graafschap and North Berrien Fire Departments all shared policies and protocol to help develop a program that suited SHAES.

Cadets are equipped with turnout gear and pagers. Their role at emergencies is to observe, not to fire-fight. A staff member serves as an on-scene mentor. The program has grown to currently have six cadets.

Michigan firefighters must be 18 years old to officially be certified as a Firefighter. This week marked a first. South Haven's first cadet became an officially certified paid-on-call firefighter.

Hinz's dream came to fruition at 12:01 a.m. Thursday when Ayden Quinn transitioned from cadet to firefighter.

This is a great story that goes beyond the Cadet program. Ayden becomes a third generation SHAES firefighter, joining his father, Tim, and grandfather, Don. Tim is an active Lieutenant in the department while Don retired from the department with 50 years of service, first with the Covert Fire Department, then South Haven Fire Department and the last 25 years with SHAES. His grandmother, the late Pat Quinn, served on the Covert and SHAES departments.

A senior at South Haven High School, Ayden over the years, before the Cadet program even started, would frequently be seen at a fire scene or at the station with his dad.

"This milestone moment is so rewarding," said Chief Hinz. "I am grateful to our friends at the Van Buren ISD, the Van Buren and Berrien training councils, the families of our cadets and to our current SHAES staff for their support. Fire protection has been a South Haven community priority since the department's founding in 1888. Programs like this will assure its continued service long into the future."

Ramageddon finishes sixth in District Robotics Tournament

By James Windell

When Ramageddon showed up at Berrien Springs High School for the FIRST Robotics competition two weeks ago, they had no idea how well they would do.

Competing against other area teams, the South Haven High School robotics team – called Ramageddon – acquitted themselves in stellar fashion – walking away from the two-day tournament by finishing 6 out of the 36 teams.

That was on March 21 and 22, 2026, and after that competition they had just one week to get ready for the second competition taking place March 27 to 29 in Battle Creek where 40 teams would vie for awards. In this FIM District Battle Creek Event, teams from all over Michigan compete to receive District Ranking Points based on their performance and awards.

"We did very well at our first event, but we know the competition will only get fiercer as the season progresses," Ramageddon Coach Zach VanHuis said prior to the Battle Creek event. "We'll be putting in a lot of hours this week to improve our designs and programming. We have made changes to the launcher angle to help us more consistently score from farther away. We will also be working to improve our intake with an entirely new system that should allow us to fill the robot much faster."

Coach Kim Wise said that during the awards ceremony, Ramageddon was presented with the Imagery Award. "This award recognizes teams for outstanding visual aesthetic integration of their machine and team appearance," she said. "It celebrates teams that create a cohesive, attractive theme across their robot, uniforms, and pit display."

VanHuis added that if time allows, they will be working to improve the conveyor system to make sure the launcher can get the balls out as quickly as possible. "On the programming side, we will work to streamline our operator controls by combining more functions into single button presses and we will work on improving how much we can score during the autonomous period," he said

The task for the robot in all events this year is the same: Robots must collect yellow balls and launch them into a chute to score points. While Ramageddon did well enough to get a 6th place finish, there's always room for improvement said VanHuis.

"There's always 'just one thing' to try on mechanisms, code, and autonomous routines," VanHuis explained. "We meet throughout the week on our normal schedule and, in the case of Saturday and Sunday competitions, we have been pulling the students out of class early on Friday to spend most of the day taking over the ILC for prolonged driver practice and last-minute changes. Throughout the week, we're sure to scout the other teams that have already competed to get an idea of who to look out for."

He said that the team will go to Battle Creek High School with certain goals in mind. "After our performance at Berrien Springs, we are well within range of qualifying for the State Championship, but it will still be a fight to get there. At the end of the day, all I hope for is that our robot functions, our students have fun, and that they learn new lessons for next season and their lives afterward."

In thrilling, sports-like competitions throughout the three-day event in Battle Creek, Ramageddon competed valiantly.

"We finished in 14th place after being picked up by the 8th seed alliance captain," said Coach Kim Wise on Sunday night at the end of the Battle Creek event. "We made it through two rounds of playoffs on Sunday before being eliminated in the 3rd round."

Still hoping to be selected for the state robotics tournament coming up in April at Saginaw Valley State University, Wise said that Ramageddon is "on the bubble" for that event. "We will have to be patient and see how the next few weeks of competitions go before we find out if we can go to Saginaw Valley State University," she said.

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VIEWPOINT

Shame on Congress, sexual harassment, misconduct claims will remain secret

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
n PUBLISHER n

There are few things more corrosive to public trust than the appearance that those in power play by a different set of rules. Congress's long-standing practice of shielding the identities of lawmakers who used taxpayer-funded settlements to resolve sexual harassment claims is one of those practices—and it should end. The fact that lawmakers recently voted to keep those names confidential only deepens the problem—and the public's frustration.

For years, allegations involving members of Congress were quietly funneled through the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, formerly the Office of Compliance, with settlements paid out of a secretive fund. While reforms in recent years have shifted financial responsibility to individual lawmakers, the culture of secrecy remains stubbornly intact. The question is simple: why should the public be kept in the dark about misconduct committed by elected officials, especially when public money was used to resolve those claims?

That question became unavoidable earlier this month when Congressperson Nancy Mace forced a vote to bring transparency to the system. Her proposal would have required the release of records related to sexual harassment and misconduct claims—while still protecting victims by redacting their identities. It was a measured, reasonable attempt to balance privacy with accountability.

And yet, it failed—decisively.

By a margin of roughly 357–65, members of Congress from both parties voted to keep those records hidden. It was a rare moment of bipartisan unity, but not one the American public should celebrate. Instead of choosing transparency, lawmakers chose to protect the institution—and, by extension, themselves.

When I saw the vote total I was flabbergasted. Congress is roughly divided evenly between male and female, yet dozens if not a few hundred female representatives voted to keep sexual harassment claims secret. Please explain to me why?

In virtually every other workplace in America, accountability matters. When executives or employees engage in harassment and a settlement is reached, there are often consequences—professional, reputational, or legal. Yet in Congress, the very institution tasked with writing and enforcing the nation's laws, there has historically been a quiet escape hatch. Names withheld. Records sealed. Accountability deferred.

Defenders of anonymity argue that confidentiality protects victims, and that is a valid and important concern. Survivors of harassment should never be forced into the spotlight against their will. But protecting victims and shielding perpetrators are not the same thing. It is entirely possible—and necessary—to safeguard victims' identities while still disclosing the names of those who abused their power. In fact, failing to do so often protects repeat offenders and enables patterns of misconduct to continue unchecked.

Transparency is not about punishment—it's about trust. Voters have a right to know whether the individuals representing them have used public funds to settle allegations of serious wrongdoing. These are not private citizens; they are public servants entrusted with authority, influence, and taxpayer dollars. Concealing their actions erodes confidence in government and reinforces the perception of a protected political class.

The recent vote to keep these records confidential also undermines deterrence. If lawmakers know that any misconduct will remain hidden, quietly resolved behind closed doors, what incentive is there to change behavior? Sunlight, as the saying goes, is the best disinfectant. Transparency would send a clear message: no one is above the standards they impose on others.

This is not a partisan issue. Misconduct knows no party lines, and neither should accountability. Whether Democrat or Republican, any lawmaker who has used a taxpayer-funded settlement to resolve harassment claims should be subject to public scrutiny. Anything less is a disservice to the American people.

Congress has made some progress, but not enough. Reforms that require members to personally repay settlements are a step in the right direction, but they do not address the core issue of transparency. And with a vote that so overwhelmingly reinforces secrecy, Congress risks further eroding what little trust remains.

If Congress wants to restore faith in its institution, it must start by holding itself to the same standards it expects from everyone else. That means reversing course, releasing the names, and proving that accountability is more than just a talking point.

County Sheriff's Office receives grant to purchase forensic computer

"Our Office has obtained $52,123 through the PA 166 of 2022 Public Safety Grant. We have used the funds for a forensic computer, TruNarc for evidence processing, a money counter capable of recording serial numbers and detecting counterfeit money used in illegal drug transactions, and other misc. items to help our office with needs to aid in doing our jobs at a high level. I would like to give a shout out to Captain Jim Charon for staying on top of grant funding and obtaining funds like this so our office can make purchases like these and help save taxpayer dollars," said Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

"Our office hosted along with the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards the updated training for Law Enforcement Response to Stalking/PPO/Bond Violations. It was held at our office in our EOC room. Numerous other law enforcement agencies, as well as ours, attended the training which went over when and where to arrest, what to charge along with an in-depth course on stalking with the added layer of PPO or bond violation," said Sheriff Abbott.

"I just hit another milestone in my career completing my 33rd year of service to the citizens of Van Buren County in law enforcement. All 33 years have been served at the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office. I honestly could not be more blessed to serve in our county, work with the professionals not only in our office, but across the county in general. I knew coming out of Ferris State University after obtaining my bachelor's degree in criminal justice that our office was where I wanted to serve my career in which I've been blessed to be able to do so. Thank you not only for the support of me as your sheriff, but for our overall office and all the law enforcement and first responders serving in our community," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Animal Control Division will host a free Microchip Clinic, April 6-11, during normal shelter hours while supplies last. Funding will be provided by MDARD through a grant we have been awarded," said Sheriff Abbott. County residents can have their dogs microchipped and registered at no cost. Owners must bring their dog(s) and ID to the shelter. This is only available to Van Buren County residents.

"We were honored to present Mr. Ricky Holly a Letter of Commendation this past week. Mr. Holly was driving by a residence in Pine Grove Township that was on fire and stopped immediately. Without hesitation, he ran into the residence and opened doors so the pets could escape. He also helped a physically challenged individual out of the residence. Without his selfless act of bravery, the outcome could have been very different. Thank you, Ricky Holly!!" said Sheriff Abbott

"Questions come up at times reference Amish Buggies. One question that came up recently is passing them in a no-passing zone. Horse-drawn buggies are treated like other vehicles with additional provisions not necessarily applicable to horses alone. A horse drawn buggy qualifies as an "implement of husbandry" such as a tractor. So, in short, you cannot pass them in a no-passing zone. Amish buggies are required to follow the same laws as vehicles when they are travelling on the roadway such as stop signs, speed limits, etc.," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Reach the Forgotten Fundraising Banquet is Just Over a Month Away. It's being held at Freshwater Church in Paw Paw on May 7. The money raised goes directly to RTF for the ministry being done at our jail. If you've never been to one, you won't be disappointed if you attend. There is always great fellowship, and you'll hear from inmates in which RTF has made a difference in helping turn their lives around. RVSP by April at jailministry.org," said Sheriff Abbott.

"I would like to thank the public for the number of tips that come into our office with information. We receive numerous tips about drugs, animal cruelty, domestic violence, child abuse, etc. I can assure you every tip that comes in gets looked at and investigated. Just as a reminder, you can send them in anonymously as well if you are concerned about your name being involved," said Sheriff Abbott.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Falling (RAPIDLY) Star

Falling (RAPIDLY) Star

Dear Editor:

Once upon a time, Michigan GOP members might have had renewed hope of a young, rising star in their midsts. Sadly, this star, Aric Nesbitt, has fallen into the very swamp he supposedly wants to drain, a swamp now nothing more than a septic drain field thanks to this fallen star's severely damaged hero, Donald Trump.

Nowhere is this more painfully obvious than in the recent $252,000 worth of Aric Nesbitt's bizarre "down on the farm" campaign commercials for his quest to win the Republican gubernatorial primary.

"I stand with Donald Trump" he proudly states as he holds a piglet under each arm. He talks of shoveling "bleep" and castrating pigs. Yes! Castrating! Pigs!

It's truly sad that Mr. Nesbitt has failed to notice that his hero's approval rating is at an all time low. Even his advisors have tried to convince Nesbitt that he should rapidly distance himself from Donald Trump, for clearly obvious reasons.

Unfortunately, his tarnished hero has rendered the majority of Republican Congressional members completely afraid and powerless. It's beyond ironic that Mr. Nesbitt tells us he stands with Trump in practically the same breath

as he brags about the act of castrating pigs. With Trump it's GOP senators and representatives. With Nesbitt, it's pigs.

It's high time Mr. Nesbitt returns to the family farm full time, for the good of all (except the piglets).

Sincerely,

John McLellan

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Easter Egg Hunt takes place in Lawrence

The Lawrence Ox Roat & Homecoming Committee presented the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 28, at the Lawrence Village Park. Area children took part in Easter Egg Hunts, arts and crafts project presented by the Van Buren District Library Lawrence Branch, and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Star of the Lake music series debuts

By James Windell

The Scott Spears Trio will be the first musical act in the new Star of the Lake Music Series in downtown South Haven on Friday, April 3, 2026.

According to Rob Byrd, who is producing the series, the music series will be held at one of the architectural gems of South Haven – the Masonic Temple Building at 321 Center Street. This is where Star of the Lake Masonic Lodge #158 has been meeting since its charter was issued in 1865.

"One of the founding members was Liberty Hyde Bailey," says Rob Byrd, a local filmmaker and radio show host, "and he came up with the name 'Star of the Lake,'" The Masonic Temple building was constructed in 1913.

Byrd says that each show in the music series will be a fundraiser for some local nonprofit organizations. "The first show will be a fundraiser for the Masonic Lodge to be able to make improvements and begin to distribute money to charities," Byrd, who is Master of the Lodge, noted. He also added that alcohol sales during the show will benefit a local charity.

Guitarist Scott Spears, whose trio headlines the first show in the series, started the 1980s band the Wild Woodys, a Kalamazoo-based rockabilly trio that toured throughout Michigan and Canada. The group played many festivals throughout North America and opened for several concerts at the Kalamazoo State Theater. In 1993, the Wild Woodys won the Stoker Award for Best Locally produced album.

After disbanding the Wild Woodys, Spears joined the Detroit band The Twistin' Tarantulas, going on national tours and playing in venues from New York City to Hollywood, California. Currently, Spears leads his trio which plays electric guitar–driven blues rock with a strong Jimi Hendrix influence. Byrd indicates that in his concert in South Haven, he will perform covers like "Castles Made of Sand" and "Manic Depression," both of which were Jimi Hendrix recordings, as well as similar classic rock/blues material.

The concerts in the Star of the Lakes Music Series will take place at 7:00 pm in the dining room on the third floor in the Masonic Temple, 321 Center Street, South Haven. "Seating is limited to 65 people," Byrd says, "but if we ended up with more people, we can move the concert to our larger meeting room,"

Tickets are $25 for the concert and can be purchased at the door on April 3. To reserve a ticket ahead of time, contact Rob Byrd at moondogpro1@moondog.com or text him at 269-767-3001.

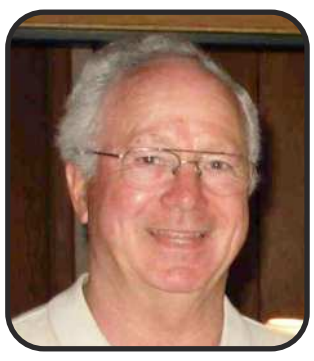
OBITUARIES

Kenneth Carl Barnes

Kenneth Carl Barnes passed away peacefully at his beloved farm on March 8, 2026. He was surrounded by his wife, Judy, his daughters and son-in-laws and niece Sarah as he moved on to new adventures.

Ken was born on August 15, 1939, in Chicago, IL to William and Dorothy Barnes. When Ken was a young boy, the family moved to a farm near Decatur, MI where his love of the outdoors and farming began. His father instilled in him a passion for flying -- Ken would go on to obtain recreational pilot licenses in both single engine planes and helicopters -- and also started him in the mechanical trades. He was a member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union.

Ken joined the National Guard in high school and, after graduation from Decatur High School in 1957, he attended college where he met his life-long sweetheart, Judith Rector. They were married in 1961. He then joined the Air Force for four years, stationed mainly at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, MI. After leaving the Air Force, he moved to Paw Paw, MI and began working in the HVAC trades. He continued



to serve his country by joining the Air National Guard, stationed in Battle Creek, for a total of more than 26 years of honorable service. He was also a member of the American Legion in Decatur.

During this time, Ken and Judy began their family; Robert of Palatine, IL, Susan (David) Crouse of Paw Paw, Charles (Karen) of Galesburg and Kathleen (Craig) Northrup of Midland. He was also blessed with grandkids, Brian (Chelsea) and Abby (Victor) Crouse, David Barnes and Deanna Barnes and great grandchildren Ramsey, Avery, Roman and Poppy. His family grew with step-grandchild Taylor Northrup and her children Kolt and Kova. Education was very important to Ken, and he and Judy helped fund trusts for the future education of all six great grandchildren.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings William (Carol) of Paw Paw, Michael (Vicki) of Spring Lake and Karen (Ralph) of Paw Paw. His sister Nancy (Barry) Davis of Alberta, Canada survives.

Ken's adventures never slowed. After raising their kids, Ken and Judy fulfilled their lifelong dream by purchasing a 100-acre farm and creating a 'heaven on earth' natural escape where many friends and family came to visit. Dad excelled at teaching the young people who came to work on the farm, providing a hands-on education on mechanical engineering, residential construction and problem solving with creative approaches on a complex and diverse farm. There are countless treasured stories from his many mentees and various renters of their adventures on the farm and beautiful fishing lake. In recent years, Ken and Judy have especially appreciated the work and friendship of Liam and Karley Marshall around their property.

There will be a memorial service and dedication for Ken at his farm this summer.

Joanne E. Rossman

By Daughter: Judy Versalle (269) 615-1277

Joanne and Edward Rossman moved to Lake Brownwood, Paw Paw in 1948. With the arrival of their children - John, Tom, and Judy, they soon outgrew their small home. In 1959, a year after purchasing a farm south of Paw Paw, tragedy struck. Dad was diagnosed with leukemia and passed away within two weeks. Mom, a young woman with three small children and a mortgage, somehow found the strength and determination to carry on.

Together, Mom and us kids farmed the land - raising chicken for meat and eggs, growing crops, and canning what we harvested. Clothes were second hand, but there was always food on the table, and she made sure we were clean, cared for, and deeply loved.

When neighboring land became available, Mom saw an opportunity to improve our lives. With remarkable tenacity, she persuaded the local bank to grant her - a widowed mother with limited income - a loan to purchase land. She became the first woman to secure a property loan from the bank without a husband of cosigner!

Mom never stopped pushing forward. While farming, working additional jobs, and raising her family, she continued her education. She became Paw Paw Township Treasurer and later earned her real estate license. In time, the farm was sold, and she opened her own business, Town & Country Real Estate in Paw Paw.

After her children were grown, Mom moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where she continued her successful real estate career, formed many new friendships, and traveled the world.

On her 80th Birthday, Mom returned to Mattawan. To the surprise of no one, she lived independently, volunteered every Friday at the Paw Paw Community Thrift Shop, served on the Mattawan Planning and Zoning Board, and was a proud participant in Van Buren County Senior Services.

She leaves behind many dear and caring friends, as well as her loving family:

Her oldest son, John, and his wife Faye of Phoenix; their daughter Danielle and her husband Mac; and grandchildren Tatum and Lazarus.

Son, Tom Rossman of Mattawan

Daughter, Judy and her husband Mike Versalle, and their son Chris and his wife Kate; their daughter Dr. Marissa Versalle and her husband Brandon Gaddis.

Cloaked in dignity, strength and love....She was our Mentor, our Mother, and the one who kept our family together....Our Mother, Joanne Rossman

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MATTAWAN

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Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240
www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calva-ry-community.church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm
And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.

• • • •

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56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263
www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
Sundays at 10:25 a.m

• • • •

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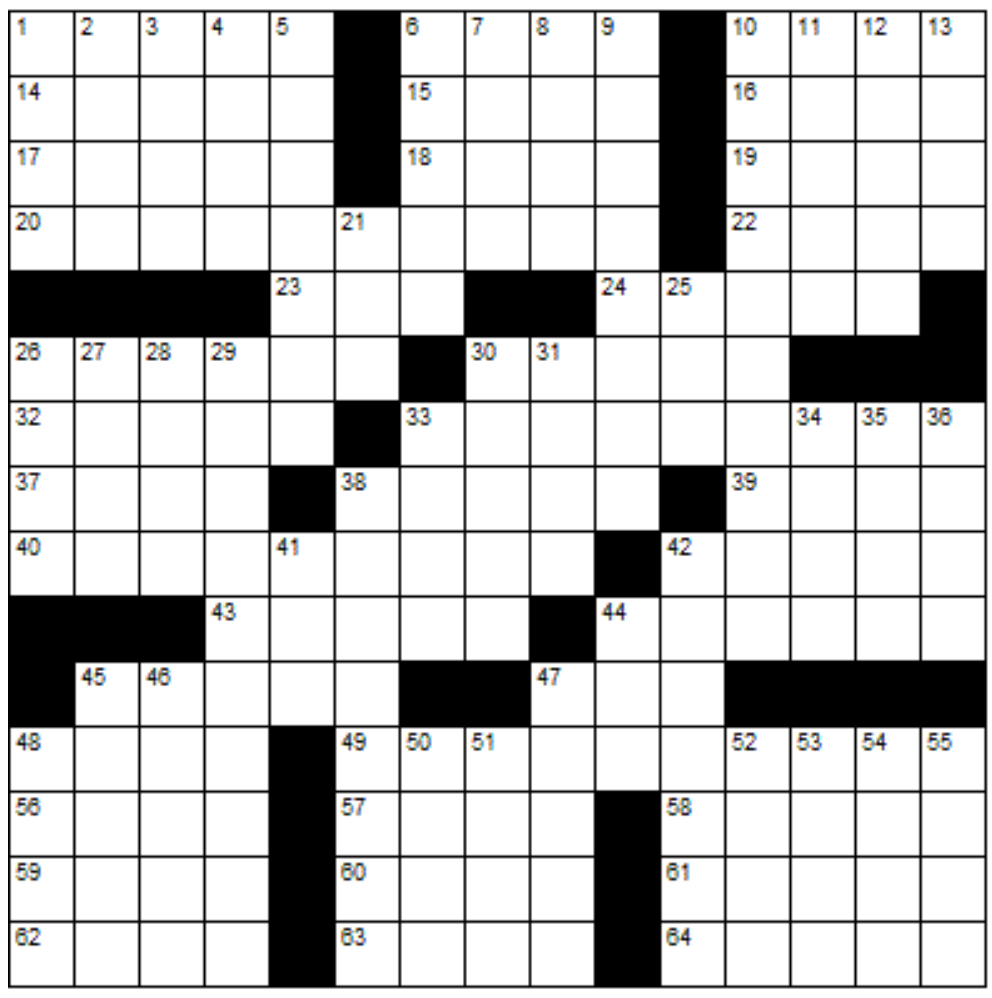
ACROSS

1. Abatement
6. At the peak of
10. Utiliser
14. Entertain
15. A rounded projection
16. Egyptian river
17. Mineral excavator
18. Component of steel
19. Any minute
20. Based upon
22. Absorbed
23. Petrol
24. Eagle's home
26. Spending plan
30. Father Christmas
32. Acquiesce
33. Darkened by the sun
37. Extended family
38. Divisions of quantity
39. Pierce
40. Sleep during winter
42. Thick
43. Frolics
44. Ransom
45. Hindu loincloth
47. Total
48. Oceans
49. Not positively
56. Decorative case
57. "Darn!"
58. Brown shade
59. Canvas dwelling
60. Covet
61. Foe
62. Pretentious
63. Elk or caribou
64. Stairs



DOWN

1. Light source
2. Arab ruler
3. Musical phrase
4. Brought into play
5. Nearest orbital point
6. Assumed name
7. Legal wrong
8. Double-reed woodwind
9. Necklaces
10. Disorganized
11. Red Sea peninsula
12. Run off to wed
13. Let out
21. Feline
25. Estimated time of arrival
26. German baroque composer
27. Type of fruit
28. Colorless
29. Charitableness
30. Business outfits
31. Initial wager
33. Break in two
34. Zero
35. Celtic language
36. Regard
38. Not supervised
41. Decay
42. Passes down by bequest
44. Furrow
45. Discourage
46. A frequently visited place
47. Nymph chaser
48. Bristle
50. Coastal raptor
51. Chipped in
52. Opening
53. Type of sword
54. Not stiff
55. Cheers

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Easter Word Search

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BUNNY
EGGS
LENT
CARROTS
FIND
MIRACLE
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FLOWERS
PASSOVER
COTTONTAIL
GOODFRIDAY
PRAYER
CROSS
HIDE
RABBIT
DECORATE
HOLY
RESURRECTION
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HUNT
RISEN
EGGHUNT
JESUS
SALVATION

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5	1	8	9	7	6	1	4	2
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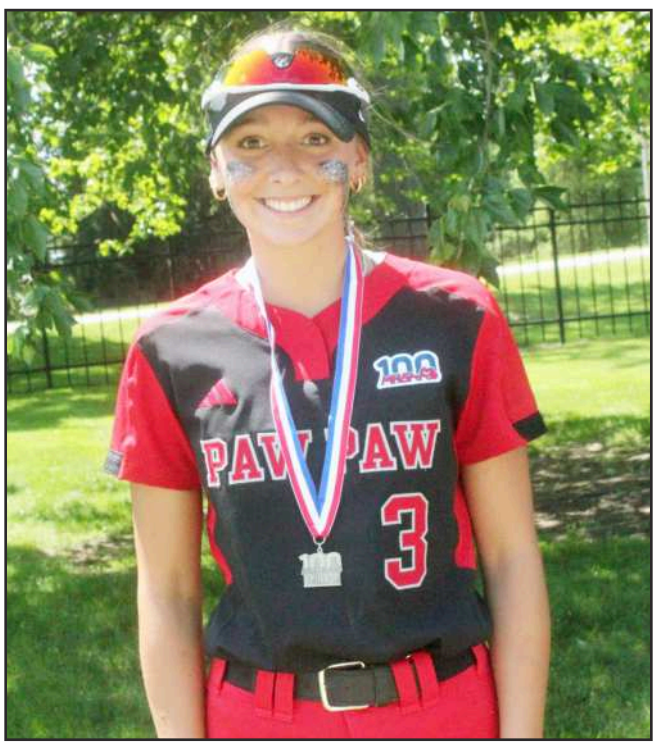
Paw Paw softball off to 6-0 start

Elizabeth Vanderburg had key hit for Paw Paw.



Cami VanderMeeden is off to a strong start at the plate for the Wolves.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's softball team has fired out to a 6-0 start.

On March 20, the Wolves beat Hatford 22-1. Cami Vandermeeden hit two home runs and drove in four. She homered in the fifth and third inning.

Carlie Stretch tripled home a run in the first inning. Paw Paw scored four runs in the top of the second. Elizabeth Vanderburg smacked a solo inside the park home run. Kailey Nichols had a two-run double.

Cami Vandermeeden had a home run in the third.

Paw Paw had eight runs in the fifth. Raegan Zache had a two-run triple. Vandrmeeden had a three-run homer. Aliya Edison had a solo home run.

Koutney Nichols was the winning pitcher for Paw Paw.'

Paw Paw won the first game 12-0. Stella Shearer had four his for the Wolves. Stella Shearer hut a hime run in the third inning and also had two doubles and a single. Vandermeeden pitched three innings in relief.

Paw Paw also beat Niles 6-1 and 11-1 on March 24 and swept Portage Central 4-0 and 4-2 on March 25.

In the 6-1 win over Niles, Lauren MacKellar fanned 16 batters. She allowed only one hit. VanderMeeden had three RBIs.

In the 11-1 win Paw Paw scored five runs in the fourth and five in the fifth. Stella Shaefer had three RBIs. Bella Clemons was the winning pitcher.

Paw Paw swept Portage Central 4-0 and 4-2 on March 25.

South Haven eyes another strong baseball season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Coach Joe Dubina was very happy with the season his South Haven baseball team had last year and would not be surprised if success repeats itself in 2026.

"The Rams had a good season and finished first in the Lakeshore division of the SAC," Dubina said. "They had numerous players get all-conference and district accolades, as well as multiple all-academic honors at state and local levels. We had several contributors graduate last year, but are returning 8 letterwinners and 10 seniors overall.

Returners stats

1. Isaac Chalupa, OF/1B/RHP, SR, 2025 Stats- Avg. 412, 9-2B, 2-3B, 1HR, , 12SB, 27RBI, 25R, 17.2 IP, 2.019 ERA W/L 2-1

2. Charlie Hiatt, SR, 1B/LHP, SR, 2025 Stats- Avg. .324, OBP .465, 4-2B, 14RBI, 21R

3. Max Verseput, SR, RH-P/3B/1B 2025 Stats- Avg. .333, 9-2B, 1HR, 19RBI, 15R, 52 IP, .942ERA, 5-3, 67SO, 17BB

4. Wyatt Dotson, SR, OF/P, 2025 Stats- .261 Avg, 7-2B, 2HR, 19RBI, 18 R, 2.65 ERA

5. Jonathan Bevevino- SR, C/UTL, 2025 stats- .346 Avg, 16RBI, .994 Fld%

6. Jadon Schneider- INF/OF/P, SR, 2025 stats- .262 Avg., 12 R, 3.706 ERA

7. Tavin Burrows- SR, OF, 2025 stats- .250 Avg. 8 R, .421 OBP

8. Jacob Bosma- SR, IF/P, 2025 stats (recovering from injury)- .211 avg, 17 R (2024 Pitching)- 1st team all district, 1st team all conference as SP

"We also have some key young players and new additions. Logan Hudson is a freshman and has already been making an impact on the mound early in the season. He pitches and plays outfield," Dubina said. "Quin Hayes and Grayson Knox are both seniors that came back this year after taking a year off. Quin has been making an impact on the mound and in the outfield for the Rams.

'Grayson Knox has earned a starting role at second base early in the season and is one of the team leaders in batting average. Max Hanny is a sophomore middle infielder that has been contributing at both shortstop, second, and at the plate for us. We also have Rowan Fonseca, who is a top threat on the basepaths for us and is a solid outfielder."

Dubina added:

"We have high expectations for the team this year. We have 10 seniors who are hungry to have some success and also are great role models in our community. We have some very talented younger players that will be helping push our leaders to continue to compete every day. Our team strengths are defense, pitching, and experience. We have a conference outlined by three separate divisions, and we hope to compete for the top spot in the SAC this season."

Lawton's softball depth excites coach Ludwig

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton softball coach Madison Ludwig was impressed with how her tam performed in 2025 and is looking forward tot he results from cc

"The 2025 season was a true testament to the hard work, resilience, and determination of this team," Ludwig said. "Despite being a young group, the girls consistently showed grit and perseverance while facing adversity throughout the season. They embraced the mindset of playing as one team and focused on becoming the best athletes they could be each day.

"One of the standout highlights came from junior pitcher Paityn Beam of Mattawan, who was on pace to reach nearly 100 strikeouts before an injury sidelined her during the final three weeks of the season. Additionally, freshmen Aubri Conklin and Payton Potter made an immediate impact at the plate, both acquiring an impressive batting average above .500 at some point in the season. Overall, the season was defined by growth, toughness, and a strong foundation for the future."

Graduation did take a toll.

"Two key athletes we will greatly miss from last season's team are Lily McCorry and Sarah Hernandez," Ludwig said. "Lily McCorry, our center fielder, was not only a captain but also the leader of our outfield. She brought consistency, positivity, and a strong competitive mindset every single day, no matter the opponent. Her ability to lead by example and stay composed in all situations made a lasting impact on our program.

"Sarah Hernandez, our second baseman and fellow captain, was the definition of calm, cool, and collected. She was someone we could always rely on to steady the team in high-pressure moments, whether that meant making a key play on the field or helping a teammate regain focus. Her leadership and presence will truly be missed.

"Both athletes played a huge role in shaping the culture of our team, and their contributions have set a strong standard for those returning this season.

Ludwig added

'This season, we are excited about the depth and versatility of our team. Rather than highlighting just a few individuals, we will be attaching a full roster, as we truly believe many of our athletes will play key roles throughout the season. We have several talented players who bring value in multiple positions, giving us great flexibility and strength across the field.

Our focus this year is on continued development—both physically and mentally. All players are committed to improving their skills while also strengthening their mental game through the Mental Edge Academy. Softball is a sport full of imperfect moments, and our emphasis is on how our athletes respond during those times. Their ability to stay composed, compete, and support one another will be a major factor in our success."

Ludwig's expectations are high

"Our expectations for this season go far beyond wins and losses. While we are always competitive and strive to be successful on the field, our primary goal is to develop these young women into confident, resilient, and disciplined individuals who are prepared for life beyond softball," she said. "We expect our athletes to commit to growth—both physically and mentally. Through their work with the Mental Edge Academy, we are emphasizing the importance of mental toughness, focus, and the ability to respond to adversity. Softball is a game of imperfections, and success is not defined by making mistakes, but by how our players respond when things don't go their way.

"We also expect our team to embrace their roles, support one another, and contribute to a positive and unified team culture. With a roster full of versatile athletes, we value adaptability and a team-first mindset. Whether in a starting position or stepping in when needed, every player has an important role in our success. Above all, we expect our athletes to represent our program with pride, integrity, and accountability—both on and off the field. If we can accomplish these things, the wins will take care of themselves, and more importantly, we will be developing strong, capable young women ready for whatever comes next."

Ludwig added:

"Our team's greatest strengths this season will be growth and sportsmanship. We are committed to continuous improvement, and we can confidently say that the team you see at the beginning of the season will not be the same team you face at the end."

Gobles track teams defeat Lawton

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton hosted an outdoor track and field scrimmage on March 24 against Gobles.

Gobles won the boys meet 73-57 and the girls meet 85-47.

Winners for the Gobles boys were Nathan Ray Coal Otis, Hunter Piper, David Sager, Fletcher Amos, the 4x400 and 4x800 relay teams, and Landon Gerald

Winners for the Gobles girls were Madison Cooley Lauren Shaffer, Lily Smith, Freedom Morris, all four relay teams and Taylor Cooley.

Taking firsts for Lawton boys were Dillon Carlson, the 4x100and 4x200 relays, and Caiden Mitchell.

Winners for the Lawton girls were Payton VanPeteghem, Daisy Karsen, Annabelle Karsen and Autumn Guidebeck.

Bangor baseball team wins two

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor's baseball team is off to a 2-0 start after enjoying a pair of wins on March 25 over Eau Claire 21-14 and 3-0.

Luke Remington drove in five runs on two hits in the first game. He singled in the fifth inning, scoring one run and singed in the sixth, scoring another run.

Bangor out-hit Eau Claire 14-8.

Bangor scored eight runs on four hits to take an 8-1ead in the bottom of the third. An error produced three hits. Remington had an RBI single in the bottom of the sixth while Jarret McCoy, Brendan Jackson and Nick Hardesty had RBI walks.

McCoy was the winning pitcher for Bangor.

Bangor had 14 hits with Carson Pullin producing three. Brendon Jackson and Wyatt Schneider had multiple hits.

Jaxon Webb was the starting pitcher for Bangor in the second game, allowing no runs and no hits in one inning and striking out three. Remington a two-run single in the first inning.

Paw Paw tennis team falls to Berrien Springs

By John Raffel
Correspondent

South Haven lost last week to Berrien Springs 8-0 in girls tennis action

Singles

No. 1 - Nini Ren, Berrien Springs def. Addy Cook, South Haven, 6-1 , 6-0 .

No. 2 - Melody Kertawidjaja, Berrien Springs def. Harley Nail, South Haven, 6-1 , 6-0.

No. 3 - Briella Streelman, Berrien Springs def. Leah Becker, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-1 , -;

No. 4 - Sophia Kissinger, Berrien Springs def. Violet Burgoyne, South Haven, 6-3 , 4-6 , 13-11 ;

Doubles

No. 1 - Ella Eckerley, Berrien Springs - Sarina Halder, Berrien Springs def. Maria Booth, South Haven - Sarah Diaz-Salinas, South Haven, 6-2 , 6-0 , -;

No. 2 - Allison Parker, Berrien Springs - Paige Wagner, Berrien Springs def. Mireya Arvizu, South Haven - Sheyla Gonzalez, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-0 , -;

No. 3 - Angie Pangemanan, Berrien Springs - Rana Mbwambo, Berrien Springs def. Remmi Rigozzi, South Haven - Regan Nail, South Haven, 6-1 , 6-2 , -;

No. 4 - Nellie Patsika, Berrien Springs - Azucena Ventura, Berrien Springs def. Grace Armendariz, South Haven - Khloi Smith, South Haven, 6-0 , 6-0 , -;

Paw Paw baseball starts out 2-2

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's baseball all team, coach by Derek Vanderburg, has opened the season a 2-2.

On March 20 varsity baseball traveled to Hartford for the season opener. In game 1 the Red Wolves offense exploded for an 11-0 victory. Bryn Carlsen picked up the win on the mound, going three dominant no hit innings while striking out six. Landon Geddes pitched the final two innings of scoreless ball. Carlsen, Maverick Johnson, and Ryan Holmes each had a multi-hit game. Bryn was 2-for-2 with a double and an RBI. Maverick went 2-for-2 with a double, RBI, and two walks.

Holmes was 2-for-3 with a walk and stolen.

Caden Bowen added a double, RBI, walk, and three stolen bases. Hayden Criger was 1-2 with an RBI and walk. Carter Buhl collected his first varsity hit with a deep RBI double.

Remi Dempsey was 1-1 with 2 RBI's and 2 walks. The Birthday boy, Carson DeYoung, was 1-3 with a great defensive play that led to a double play

In game 2, Caden Bowen dominated for three no-hit innings and struck out seveneea 3-0 victory. Brayden Reyna pitched a scoreless last inning. Caden and Hayden led the team offensively. Caden was 1-1 with a double, RBI, hit by pitch and a stolen base. Hayden was 1-for-2 with an RBI. Remi added an RBI, while Ryan had 2 BBs and 2 stolen bases.

On March 24th and 25th. varsity baseball opened up conference play against State ranked Niles. The Vikings jumped out to an early 3-0 lead before the Red Wolves stormed back late to take a 5-3 lead. After Niles added a run in the sixth the Red Wolves were three outs away from the win. With two outs and two runners on, Niles hit a deep gap shot that Caden Bowen ran down and made a diving catch, but as he hit the ground the ball popped out.

"It was an amazing effort," Vanderburg said.

The Red Wolves couldn't score in the bottom half and lost 6-5.

"It was a great game played by both teams," Vanderburg said. "Remi Dempsey pitched four outstanding innings, allowed 1 hit, 2 earned runs, and had six strikeouts. Caden Bowen was 1-4 with a triple and 2 RBIs. Ryan Holmes added a single and SB. Hayden Criger had our other lone hit. Carter Buhl chipped in with an RBI.

Varsity baseball finished game #2 against Niles Wednesday. The game resumed in the 4th inning with Niles up 6-2. The Red Wolves held the Vikings scoreless in the fourth by Landen Geddes striking out all three batters. The Red Wolves scored three runs to close the deficit to 6-5. In the end, the Vikings prevailed with a 10-7 victory. Ryan, Benny, and Maverick each had multi-hit games.

Ryan went 3-4 with an RBI. Benny collected his first varsity hits going 2-3. Maverick continued to swing a hot bat going 2-4. Gavin hit a deep 2 RBI double, while Caden and Landen each had an RBI single and Hayden added 2 RBIs.

Upcoming games:

April 7 DH at home vs. Vicksburg; April 11 at Williamston Invite.

Mattawan splits with Rockford

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN —Mattawan's baseball team split with Rockford to open the season on March 24.

Mattawan lost the first game 8-3.

Mattawan out-hit Rockford 10-8 in the opener. Patrick Dougherty and John Pelak, both had three hits for Mattawan in the first game.

Kaden Jominy was the starting pitcher for the Wildcats, allowing six hits and one run over four innings.

Mattawan had 10 hits. Jominy had two RBIs.

Mattawan won second game 2-1.

The Wildcats were down 1-0 in the top of the fifth inning before Coleton Strong singled in two runs for Mattawan. Maxx VanAntwerp open the game for the Wildcats striking out three and walking none. Nathan Tower itched in relief for Mattawan.

Strong had two runs batted in for the winners.

Mattawan will play Novi and Rochester on April 4.

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2026-1042-DE
Estate of **TIMOTHY JAMES STEVENS**
Date of Birth 11/22/1945
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Timothy James Stevens, died 09/01/2024.**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Aunvil T. Stevens,** personal representative, or to both the porbate court a 212 Paw Paw St. Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
03/23/2026
Attorney
Richard D. Baker #P76447
24445 Nothwestern Hwy.
Ste. 102
Sothfield, MI 48075
248-353-7750
Personal Representative
Aunvil T. Stevens
27658 Drape Rd.
Lawton, MI 49065
269-624-2221

State of Michigan
Judicial Circuit - Family Division
Van Buren County
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
File no. 2026-7007-NC • Hon. Susan Metzger
IN THE MATTER OF LIAM DAIL ROBERTS
TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) Christopher Dail Roberts and Tolby Govain
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the mater may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Alyssa Sirrine has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on 04/29/2026 at 9:30 am at Probate Court, Courtroom #3 before Judge Susan Metzger P62867 to change the name of: Liam Dail Roberts to Liam Lamar Govain.

State of Michigan
Judicial Circuit - Family Division
Van Buren County
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
File no. 2026-7005-NC • Hon. Susan Metzger
IN THE MATTER OF EDWINA ANNE-DARLENE WILLETT
TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) whose address is unknown and whose interest in the mater may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Jasmine Clemons and Cody Willett has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on April 22,2026 (04/22/2026) at 9:00 am at Probate Court, Courtroom #3 before Judge Susan Metzger P62867 to change the name of: Edwina Anne-Darlene Willett to Edwinna Annmarie Willett.

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Violet Hesser; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 4/2/2026; Atty File #: 26-000785-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on May 07, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Violet Hesser a/k/a Violet R. Hesser and Jack D. Hesser, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank Date of mortgage: April 26, 2004 Recorded on May 5, 2004, Liber 1413, on Page 165, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Thirty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Three and 77/100 Dollars ($35,723.77) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 53 of plat of Suburban Acres according to the recorded Plat thereof, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 20197 Meadow Dr, Gobles, MI 49055 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1589321

(04-02)(04-23)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Robert Lee Smith; Atty: BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS - BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS; 1st Pub: 4/2/2026; Atty File #: 26-04850; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on May 14, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Robert Lee Smith to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC dated November 1, 2021 and recorded November 10, 2021 in Liber 1728 at Page 892, Van Buren County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $88,628.72. Said premises are located in Van Buren County, Michigan and are described as: Tax Id Number(s): 80-02-023-012-50 Land situated in the Township of Antwerp in the County of Van Buren in the State of MI PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE NORTH QUARTER POST OF SAID SECTION 23; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE NORTH AND SOUTH QUARTER LINE OF SAID SECTION, 376.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH ALONG SAID NORTH AND SOUTH QUARTER LINE, 277.76 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 788.09 FEET; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH QUARTER LINE OF SAID SECTION, 60.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 300.12 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF TERRITORIAL ROAD ALSO BEING THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE PENN-CENTRAL RAILROAD; THENCE NORTH 44 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE LAST DESCRIBED LINE, 300.00 FEET TO A LINE WHICH IS 376.00 FEET SOUTHERLY OF AND PARALLEL TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 03 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE LAST DESCRIBED LINE, 879.13 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. BEING SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC IN THAT PART OF TERRITORIAL ROAD THAT LIES WITHIN THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION. NOTE: The Company is prohibited from insuring the area or quantity of the land. The Company does not represent that any acreage or footage calculations are correct. References to quantity are for identification purposes only. Commonly known as: 60441 26th St, Mattawan, MI 49071-9433 THE PROPERTY ADDRESS AND TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER LISTED ARE PROVIDED SOLELY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES. Said property is commonly known as 60441 26th St, Mattawan, MI 49071. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: March 30, 2026 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 26-04850

(04-02)(04-23)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Christopher P Martin; Atty: Johnson, Blumberg, and Associates - Johnson, Blumberg, and Associates ; 1st Pub: 4/2/2026; Atty File #: MI 26 7094; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 30, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Christopher P Martin and Tanya Martin, husband and wife, whose address is 15566 41st Street, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for AmeriFirst Financial Corporation, being a mortgage dated April 15, 2022, and recorded on April 25, 2022 in Liber 1737 Page 234, Van Buren County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment recorded in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR AND 49/100 DOLLARS ($129,194.49). Said premises are situated in the Township of Bloomingdale, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: THE SOUTH 20 ACRES OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER, SECTION 21, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 14 WEST, EXCEPT BEGINNING AT THE SOUTH QUARTER POST OF SECTION 21, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 14 WEST, THENCE NORTH 54 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE WEST 165 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 290 FEET, THENCE EAST 165 FEET, THENCE NORTH 290 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 15566 41st Street, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: April 2, 2026 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490) Johnson, Blumberg & Associates LLC 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602 312.541.9710 - Phone 312.541.9711 - Fax File No.: MI 26 7094

(04-02)(04-23)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gladis M. Kovarik; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 4/2/2026; Atty File #: 26-002958; Insurer: FHLMC
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on APRIL 30, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Frances M. Dee and Richard M. Dee, wife and husband and Arthur R. Kovarik and Gladis M. Kovarik, husband and wife, to National City Mortgage Services Co, Mortgagee, dated June 21, 2002 and recorded June 26, 2002 in Liber 1359, Page 543 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on February 19, 2019, in Liber 1679, Page 727, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred One and 2/100 Dollars ($26,201.02).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on APRIL 30, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
THE NORTH 128 FEET OF THE EAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 14 WEST.
07010 37th St, Gobles, Michigan 49055
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: April 2, 2026
File No. 26-002958
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(04-02)(04-23)

STATE OF MICHIGAN 36th CIRCUIT COURT – Van Buren County, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079; 269-657-8200. To: LEONIDES ALFONSO-PEREZ In Re: MARICELA ARENAS-AGUSTIN v. LEONIDES ALFONSO-PEREZ. Case No. 25-075219-DC. Take Notice: A Request for Default Entry was filed on December 18, 2025, requesting the clerk to enter the default of Defendant for failure to plead or otherwise defend as provided by law and stating that the Defendant is not an infant or incompetent person or in the military service. The clerk approved the default entry on December 18, 2025, stating that the default of the Defendant for failure to plead or otherwise defend is entered. A Motion for Entry of Default Judgment was then filed on February 11, 2026, requesting the court to grant Plaintiff sole legal and physical custody of the minor children of the parties, award Defendant no parenting time, and award child support accordingly. A hearing will be held on March 25, 2026, at 1:30 pm before a referee of the Friend of the Court in reference to the Motion for Entry of Default Judgment: Virtual Room A, Meeting ID: 292 853 1976. The result of a failure to answer or appear may be to bar or affect the person's interest in the matter.

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: ZACHARY T DEPIERRE; Atty: Potestivo & Associates - Potestivo & Associates; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 322007; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on April 23, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): ZACHARY T. DEPIERRE, UNMARRIED MAN Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Ark-La-Tex Financial Services, LLC dba Benchmark Mortgage, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC Date of Mortgage: October 5, 2018 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 10, 2018 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $144,919.88 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: LOT 23, TERRITORIAL CREEK ESTATES 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 7 OF PLATS ON PAGE 31, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS Commonly Known as: 22285 Wynsmythe Dr., Mattawan, MI 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: 03/26/2026 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 322007

(03-26)(04-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Roger Miller; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 525440F02; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 30, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Roger Miller, Married Man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: June 2, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 16, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $195,202.77
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Waverly, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the East 1/4 post of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 14 West, and running thence with bearings referenced to a survey recorded in Liber 1 of Surveys on Page 50, South 89 degrees 58 minutes 56 seconds West along the East and West 1/4 line of the East 1/2 of said Section 963.33 feet; thence South 00 degrees 19 minutes 43 seconds West 328.90 feet; thence South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 130.09 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds West 149.97 feet; thcncc South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 580.40 feet to the Westerly right of way of M-40 Highway; thence around a curve to the left with a radius of 2241.83 feet, along said Westerly right of way to the far end of a chord which bears North 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds East 149.97 feet; thence North 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds West 580.40 feet to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 46644 M 40, Paw Paw, MI 49079-8505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 26, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1588204

(03-26)(04-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Frederick D. Cornelius; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 455668F06; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 23, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Frederick D. Cornelius, a married man, fee simple
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Date of Mortgage: March 21, 2003
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 14, 2003
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $141,236.77
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The North 22 acres of the South 42 5/8 acres of the East 70.5 acres of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, except the North 7 acres thereof.
Common street address (if any): 61398 40th St, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9753
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 26, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1588240

(03-26)(04-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Dale Kovach; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 528681F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 23, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Dale Kovach and Karen Kovach, husband and wife, as joint tenants
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Date of Mortgage: December 15, 2021
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 17, 2021
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $162,325.95
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Lawrence, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The South Half of Lots 7 and 8 in Block 9 in Original Plat of the Village of Lawrence, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber D of plats, page 600, Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 130 S Elizabeth St, Lawrence, MI 49064-9604
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 26, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1588285

(03-26)(04-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Palmer Dr., LLC VS Fred Mandel; Atty: ANR - ANR; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 25-075225-CH; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF ACTION AS TO ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, OR ASSIGNEES OF FRED MANDEL AKA FREDERIC MANDEL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there is presently pending in the Van Buren County Circuit Court, State of Michigan, an action between Plaintiff Palmer Dr., LLC, and Defendants Any and All Unknown heirs, devisees and assignees of Fred Mandel aka Frederic Mandel; Case No. 25-075228-CH, involving the property identified as: Lots 69, 70, and 71. Palmer Beach, Paw Paw Township, Parcel No. 80-14-430-069-00. You are being sued by Plaintiff in

Continues on page 10

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

Continues from page 9

ASSIGNEES OF FRED MANDEL AKA FREDERIC MANDEL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there is presently pending in the Van Buren County Circuit Court, State of Michigan, an action between Plaintiff Palmer Dr., LLC, and Defendants Any and All Unknown heirs, devisees and assignees of Fred Mandel aka Frederic Mandel; Case No. 25-075228-CH, involving the property identified as: Lots 69, 70, and 71. Palmer Beach, Paw Paw Township, Parcel No. 80-14-430-069-00. You are being sued by Plaintiff in an action brought pursuant to quiet title to the property. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in the Van Buren County Circuit Court, 212 E Paw Paw St, Paw Paw, MI 49079, within twenty-eight (28) days after the date of this notice. You may contact and serve a copy of any answer on Steven A. Jacobs, Schenk & Bruetsch, PLC, 211 W Fort St., Ste 1410, Detroit, MI 48226. Failure to answer within the time frame by law may result in a default judgment being entered against your interests in the Property.

(03-26)(04-09)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Andrew J Suarez; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 3/19/2026; Atty File #: 25MI00512-1; Insurer: (unknown)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, April 16, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Andrew J. Suarez, An Unmarried Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated July 5, 2022, and recorded on July 8, 2022, in Liber 1740, Page 522, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated July 25, 2025 and recorded December 09, 2025 in Liber 1787, Page 17, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Eighty-Eight and 01/100 ($149,088.01) including interest at the rate of 5.25000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of PORTER, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 19, Town 4 South, Range 13 West for the place of beginning; thence South 89 degrees 32 minutes 39 seconds East, 340.00 feet on the North line of said Section 19; thence South 00 degrees 40 minutes 15 seconds West, 530.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 32 minutes 39 seconds West, 340.00 feet to the West line of said Section 19; thence North 00 degrees 39 minutes 43 seconds East, 512.87 feet on the West line of said Section 19 to the Northeast corner of Section 24, Town 4 South, Range 14 West; thence continuing North 00 degrees 56 minutes 25 seconds East, 17.13 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 19 and the place of beginning Subject to an easement for ingress and egress, in common with others, over the Westerly 66 feet of the Northwest Fractional Quarter of Section 19, Town 4 South, Range 13 West. Commonly known as: 33681 COUNTY ROAD 352, DECATUR, MI 49045 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: March 19, 2026 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00512-1

(03-19)(04-09)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Scott B. Roberts; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 3/12/2026; Atty File #: 25-011281; Insurer: FNMA

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on APRIL 9, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Scott B. Roberts, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Ruoff Mortgage Company, Inc., Mortgagee, dated October 7, 2021 and recorded October 8, 2021 in Liber 1727, Page 117 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Greenway Mortgage Funding Corporation, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Eighteen and 73/100 Dollars ($150,718.73). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on APRIL 9, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:

Beginning at the centerline of Highway M-119, now M-40, at a point 155.79 feet (previously recorded as 151.84 feet), Northwesterly from the intersection of said centerline and the North and South eight line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Town 3 South, Range 13 West, Antwerp Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; thence North 47 degrees 30 minutes 32 seconds West along said centerline 100 feet; thence South 41 degrees 43 minutes 15 seconds West 250 feet; thence South 47 degrees 30 minutes 32 seconds East 100 feet; thence North 41 degrees 45 minutes 15 seconds East 250 feet to beginning. 60986 M 40, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.

Dated: March 12, 2026
File No. 25-011281
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(03-12)(04-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Jose Martinez; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 3/12/2026; Atty File #: 26-000628-1; Insurer: (unknown)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 09, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Jose Martinez, an unmarried man Original Mortgagee: Amerifirst Financial Corporation Date of mortgage: April 12, 2022 Recorded on April 26, 2022, Liber 1737, on Page 319, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven and 24/100 Dollars ($175,137.24) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 11, Block 4 of Dodges Addition to the Village of Lawton, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber K, Page 177, Van Buren County, Michigan. Commonly known as 238 S Railroad St, Lawton, MI 49065 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1587245

(03-12)(04-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: M Brian Knotek; Atty: Plunkett & Cooney - Lisa A. Hall; 1st Pub: 3/5/2026; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County in Paw Paw, Michigan starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. on April 23, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by M Brian Knotek and Kristen H. Knotek, husband and wife, as Mortgagor to Old National Bank, a national association, as Mortgagee, dated September 10, 2014, and recorded September 29, 2014, Liber 1609, Page 121, in Van Buren County Records, Van Buren County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $65,269.01 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the rate of 4.25% per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in the Township of Almena, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, described as: Lot 39, Thousand Oaks No. 3, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 8 of Plats on Page 22. Parcel ID: 80-01-552-039-00 Commonly known address: 24271 Thousand Oaks Dr., Mattawan, MI 49071 The redemption period shall be six-months from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(8), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: February 27, 2026 Old National Bank, N.A., Mortgagee PLUNKETT COONEY LISA A. HALL Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4615

(03-05)(04-02)

NOTICE

Please remove all winter wreaths, and decorations "Statures & Mementoes" from Paw Paw Township cemeteries **BEFORE APRIL 15TH**

Thank You
Thomas Palenick - Paw Paw Township Supervisor

• CLASSIFIEDS •

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

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FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

CALL A PRO HANDYMAN SERVING LAWRENCE AND SURROUNDING AREAS 269-903-6397.

PERRY'S PERFECT PITCH PIANO TUNING Homes-Churches-Schools, Call 269-999-4440

MEDICARE GURU
Call
Janet Bontrager
Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 FOR THE GOBLES PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS OF ALMENA, BLOOMINGDALE, PINE GROVE, WAVERLY, CITY OF GOBLES, AND ALLEGAN TOWNSHIP OF TROWBRIDGE.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Gobles Public School District who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk, the Office of the County Clerk, a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at ***www.mi.gov/vote*** and mailed to the Township/City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at ***www.expressSOS.com.***

The last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk is **Monday, April 20, 2026.**

After that date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following:

Municipality	Address	Regular Business hours	Hours on Saturday May 2 and/or Sunday May 3
Almena Township	27625 CR 375 Paw Paw, MI 49079	Mon/Wed/Fri 9 am – 4 pm	Sun: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Bloomingdale Township	109 E. Kalamazoo St. Bloomingdale, MI 49026	Mon – Thu 9 am – 4 pm	Sat: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Sun: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Pine Grove Township	26520 CR 388 Gobles, MI 49055	Mon/Tue/Thu 9 am-12 pm Mon-Tue 5:30-6:30 pm	Sat: 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm Sun: 7:00 am – 12:00 pm
Waverly Township	42114 M-43 Hwy Paw Paw, MI 49079	Mon – Wed 9 am – 12 pm	Sat: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
City of Gobles	105 E. Main St. Gobles, MI 49055	Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Sat: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm Sun: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Trowbridge Township (Allegan County)	913 M 40 South Allegan, MI 49090	By Appointment 269-673-8189	Sat: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

All locations open Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the appropriate clerk's office.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following will appear on the ballot:

GOBLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

GOBLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL
EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE
AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW
34.7748 MILLS FOR 10 YEARS

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Gobles Public Schools, 409 North State Street, Gobles, Michigan 49055, telephone: (269) 628-9390.

Suzie Roehm, Van Buren County Clerk

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION for the May 5, 2026, SPECIAL ELECTION VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS
OF **PAW PAW TOWNSHIP AND ANTWERP TOWNSHIP**

COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the above-named jurisdictions who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency or online at *www.Michigan.gov/Voterregistration.* Registration forms can be obtained at *www.Michigan.Gov/Vote* and mailed to the Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at *www.express.SOS.com.*

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, April 20, 2026.** After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the local clerk's office (addresses and hours listed below).

ANTWERP TOWNSHIP
Antwerp Township Hall
24821 Front St., Mattawan
Chantel Reyna, Twp Clerk
Mon - Th 7 am -5 pm
Sun 5/3 8 am-4 pm

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
Paw Paw Twp Hall
114 North Gremps St.,Paw Paw
Rebecca Payne, Twp Clerk
Mon - Wed 8 am -3 pm
Thurs 8 am - 11 am
Sat 5/2 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

All clerks will be open 7 am - 8 pm on Tuesday, May 5, 2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the election will be conducted in the townships listed for the following purposes:

Proposal Section
Village
Village Park Renewal Proposal

Shall the previously voted increase in general ad valorem taxes within the Village of Paw Paw, as established pursuant to the General Law Village Act, Act 3 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1895, currently 1.4792 mills ($1.4792 per $1,000 of taxable value) be renewed and levied in the years 2026-2030, both inclusive, and shall an additional 0.0208 mill ($0.0208 per $1,000 of taxable value) be approved and levied to restore previous millage reductions under the "Headlee Amendment" since this millage was last approved, resulting in the levy of 1.5 mills ($1.50 per $1,000 of taxable value), subject to reduction as provided by law, on taxable property in the Village?

The revenue received by the Village will be used by the Village to make improvements to and fund the operational and maintenance costs of the Village's parks. It is estimated that a levy of 1.5 mills would provide revenue of $157,615 in the first calendar year. The revenue from this millage levy will be disbursed to the Village of Paw Paw, for distribution to the Park Fund.

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.
Persons with disabilities needing accommodations as defined by the American with Disabilities Act should contact the local clerk's office.

PUBLIC NOTICE
BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That the **PUBLIC ACCUARACY TEST** for the May 5,2026 Special Election for the Gobles School Millage has been scheduled for **Tuesday April 7,2026 at 9:30am In the Township Hall Meeting room, 109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomingdale, MI 49026**

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted To demonstrate that the program that will be used to tabulate the results of the Election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Melanie Kelly
Bloomingdale Township Clerk

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP INVITATION TO BID

Bloomingdale Township is soliciting proposals for qualified providers to provide cemetery maintenance and Sexton services for Bloomingdale Township. The contractor must be capable and willing to provide services as outlined by the board. Contractors can contact Bloomingdale Township, 109 E, Kalamazoo St., PO BOX 11, Bloomingdale, Mi 49026 (269) 521-3800 ext 3 for further information or obtain a bid packet.

Sealed bids must be to Bloomingdale Township no later than 12:00pm
On April 7, 2026. The Township Board reserves the right to reject any and all sealed bids.

Melanie Kelly, Township Clerk

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The Arlington Township Planning Commission will meet on the following dates for the **2026** calendar year:
52022 34 th Avenue, Bangor MI 49013
269-427-7300

All meetings will begin at **6:00pm** on the following **Wednesdays** and will take place at the **Arlington Township Hall**, 52022 34 th Avenue, Bangor, MI.

March 4th	August 5th
April 1st	September 2nd
May 6th	October 7th
June 3rd	November 4th
July 1st	December 2nd

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, (MCL 41.72a(2)(3)) and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Arlington Township Board of Trustees will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio recordings of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon a 5-day notice to the Arlington Township Board of Trustees. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Board by writing or calling: **Susan Wilson, Township Clerk, 269-427-7300**

In order to comply with training requirements, **Van Buren Public Transit** will be closed **Friday, April 10, 2026,** to hold its Annual Refresher Training for staff.

We are sorry for any inconvenience. Services will resume as scheduled the following day.

Columbia Township
NORTH LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of Columbia Township will hold a public hearing at a special meeting of the Township Board on April 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., before the regular meeting, at the Township Hall, 53053 County Road 388, Grand Junction, Michigan 49056, within the Township, to hear and consider any objections to the proposed Improvements, the District and all other matters relating to said Improvements and the District.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that preliminary plans and estimates of cost for the Improvements are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination. PROPERTY SHALL NOT BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF COST SHALL NOT BE INCREASED BY MORE THAN 10% WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING.
Columbia Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk at the address below.

This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of Columbia Township
Kara Hartmann, Clerk
Columbia Township
53053 CR 388, Grand Junction, MI 49056
(269) 434-6227

COMMUNITY

PPPS Senior Citizens Luncheons

At Paw Paw Public Schools, we are committed to fostering connections among our schools and the community to increase authentic opportunties for students and improve civic engagement.

All Paw Paw area seniors citizens aged 60 and older are invited to attend and learn about the great things happening in the schools!

There is a suggested $6 donation, but participation is open to all seniors regardless of ability to donate.

Paw Paw High School Cafeteria
30609 Red Arrow Hwy.

All luncheons begin at 1:30 p.m., and doors open at 1:15 p.m.

Mar. 13, 2026
Corned Beef & Cabbage, Roasted Potatoes with Carrots, Biscuit & Cookies

Apr. 10, 2026
Alfredo Pasta with Chicken, Garlic Bread, Broccoli, Carrots with Cauliflower & Chocolate Cream Pie

May 8, 2026
Fried Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad & Apple Pie

Arlington Township
Regular Meeting Schedule
of the Board of Trustees

52022 34th Avenue, Bangor MI 49013
269-427-7300

The Arlington Township Board of Trustees will meet on the following dates for the **2026** to **2027** fiscal year:

All meetings will begin at **7:00 pm** on the following **Wednesdays** and will take placeat the **Arlington Township Hall, 52022 34th Avenue, Bangor, MI**.

April 15th	**October 21st**
May 20th	**November 18th**
June 17th	**December 9th**
July 15th	**January 20th**
August 19th	**February 17th**
September 16th	**March 17th**

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, (MCL 41.72a(2)(3)) and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Arlington Township Board of Trustees will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio recordings of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon a 5-day notice to the Arlington Township Board of Trustees. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Board by writing or calling: Susan Wilson, Township Clerk, 269-427-7300

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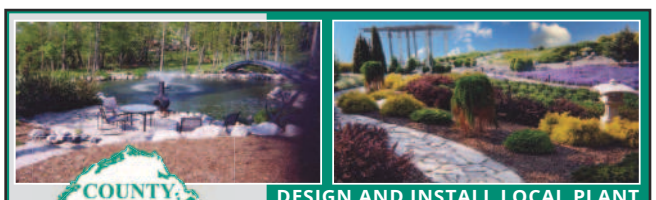
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269-470-9191 or **269-463-8785,** or
watervlietrodandgunclub.org.

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NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS:
The Kalamazoo County Townships of Brady, Charleston, Climax, Comstock, Cooper, Kalamazoo, Oshtemo, Pavilion, Prairie Ronde, Richland, Ross, Schoolcraft, Texas, and Wakeshma, and the Cities of Galesburg, Kalamazoo, Parchment and Portage; the Barry County Townships of Barry, Johnstown, and Prairieville; the Calhoun County Townships of Bedford, and Leroy, and the City of Battle Creek; the St. Joseph County townships of Leonidas, Mendon, and Park; and the Van Buren County Townships of Almena and Antwerp.

COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO, BARRY, CALHOUN, ST. JOSEPH, AND VAN BUREN STATE OF MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the above named jurisdictions who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township or City Clerk; the Office of the appropriate County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency, or online at www.Michigan.gov/Voterregistration. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com. The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, April 20, 2026.**
After **Monday, April 20, 2026,** anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the locations listed below. Before visiting the office, please confirm office hours by visiting the appropriate website or calling the office. You may register to vote online or download a registration form that can be mailed to the Township or City Clerk by visiting www.Michigan.Gov/Vote.

MUNICIPALITY & WEBSITE	ADDRESS	REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS	HOURS ON SATURDAY, MAY 2 OR SUNDAY, MAY 3	HOURS ON TUESDAY, MAY 5
KALAMAZOO COUNTY				
Brady Township ***www.bradytwp.org***	13123 Townline St.,Vicksburg, MI 49097 • (269) 649-1813 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Charleston Township ***www.charlestontownship.org***	1499 South 38th St., Galesburg, MI 49053 • (269) 665-7805 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Tuesday & Thursday 9 am – 12 pm, 1 pm - 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Climax Township ***www.climaxtownship.org***	110 North Main St., Climax, MI 49034 • (269) 746-4103 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday 9 am – 4 pm, Tuesday 9 am – 12 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Comstock Township ***www.comstockmi.gov***	5858 King Highway, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 • (269) 381-2360 Drop Box located at Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8 am – 4:30 pm, Wednesday 8 am - 6 pm, Friday 8 am-12 pm	Saturday, May 2 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Cooper Township ***www.coopertwp.org***	1590 West D Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 • (269) 382-0223 Drop Box located at Township Hall in the brick wall right of front door, available 24 hours	Monday – Friday 8 am – 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Kalamazoo Township ***www.ktwp.org***	1720 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 • (269) 381-8082 Drop Box is located at the Township Hall to the right of the entrance doors, available 24 hours. Additional drop box location: Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Road, available 24 hours.	Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Oshtemo Township ***www.oshtemo.org***	7275 West Main St., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 • (269) 375-4260 Drop Box located at the Township Hall is walk up or drive up, available 24 hours Drop box located in the lobby of the Township Hall isavailable during business hours Additional drop box location: Oshtemo Community Center, 6407 Parkview Ave, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 8 am – 5 pm, Friday 8 am – 1 pm Closed daily from 1 pm - 2 pm for lunch	Saturday, May 2 7 am – 3 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Pavilion Township ***www.paviliontownship.com***	7510 East Q Ave., Scotts, MI 49088 • (269) 327-0462 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Friday 9 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Prairie Ronde Township ***www.prairierondetwp.net***	14050 S 6th Street, Schoolcraft, MI 49087 • (269) 679-5666 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Call (269) 679-5666	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Richland Township ***www.richlandtwp.net***	7401 North 32nd St., Richland, MI 49083 • (269) 629-4921 Drop Box located inside the foyer of Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 8 am – 5 pm	Saturday, May 2 9 am – 5 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Ross Township ***https://rosstownshipmi.gov/***	12086 East M-89, Richland, MI 49083 • (269) 731-4888 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Schoolcraft Township ***www.schoolcrafttownshipmi.gov***	50 East VW Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097 • (269) 649-1276 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Texas Township ***www.texastownship.org***	7227 West Q Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 • (269) 375-1591 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday • 8 am – 5:00 pm Friday 8 am – 12:00 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Wakeshma Township ***www.wakeshmatownship.com***	13988 South 42nd St., Fulton, MI 49052 • (269) 778-3728 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	First & Third Mondays 9 am - 12 pm	Saturday, May 2 • 6 am – 10 am, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Galesburg City ***www.galesburgcity.org/***	200 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053 • (269) 665-7000 Drop Box located at City Hall, available 24 hours	Monday - Thursday 8 am - 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Kalamazoo City ***www.kalamazoocity.org***	241 West South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 • (269) 337-8000 **Drop Boxes available 24 hours. Located at:** City Hall on the corner of St. Johns Pl & Lovell St. Kalamazoo Dept. of Public Safety- Station 7, 2331 Parkview Ave City of Kalamazoo Public Services Bldg., 415 E. Stockbridge Eastside Comm. Center, 1301 E. Main St. Douglass Comm. Association, 1000 W. Paterson St.	City Hall Office: Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 9 am –5 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Parchment City ***www.parchment.org***	650 S. Riverview Dr., Parchment, MI 49004 • (269) 349-3785 Drop Box located at City Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Friday 9 am - 4 pm	Sunday, May 3 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Portage City ***www.portagemi.gov***	7900 S. Westnedge Ave., Portage, MI 49002 • (269) 329-4511 **Ballot Drop Boxes:** Portage City Hall 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, Michigan 49002 Directions: 2 Boxes Available - Building Front, And Night Drop Box. Hours: Available 24 Hours/7 Days a Week Fire Station #2 6101 Oakland Drive, Portage, Michigan 49024 Directions: Next To The Red Emergency Phone Hours: Available 24 Hours/7 Days a Week Fire Station #3 8503 S Sprinkle Road, Portage, Michigan 49002 Directions: Next To The Red Emergency Phone Hours: Available 24 Hours/7 Days a Week	Monday – Thursday 7:30 am – 5:30 pm, Friday 8 am -12 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
BARRY COUNTY				
Barry Township ***www.barrytownshipmi.com***	11300 South M-43, P. O. Box 705, Delton, MI 49046 (269) 623-5171	Wednesday 9 am – 12 pm 1 pm – 5 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Johnstown Township ***www.johnstowntwp.org***	13641 South M-37, Battle Creek, MI 49017 (269) 721-3710	Monday & Wednesday 8:30 am – 4 pm or by appt.	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Prairieville Township ***www.prairievilletwp-mi.org***	10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton, MI 49046 (269) 623-2664	Tuesday – Thursday 9 am – 12 pm • 1 pm – 5 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
CALHOUN COUNTY				
Battle Creek City ***www.battlecreekmi.gov***	10 N Division St., Battle Creek, MI 49014 • (269) 966-3311 Drop Box Located at City Hall, Available 24 hours	Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Bedford Charter Township ***www.bedfordchartertwpmi.gov***	115 S. Uldriks Dr., Battle Creek, MI 49037 • (269) 965-1999 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 7am – 3pm	Saturday, May 2 7 am – 3 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Leroy Township ***www.leroytownship.org***	8156 4 Mile Rd., East Leroy, MI 49051 • (269) 979-9421 Drop Box located at Township Hall, available 24 hours	Tuesday – Thursday 9 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 9 am – 5 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY				
Leonidas Township	53312 Fulton Rd., Leonidas, MI 49066 • (269) 506-3854 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 am -12 pm • Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 • 9am – 1pm Sunday, May 3 • 1 pm – 5 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Mendon Township ***www.mendontwp.com***	136 W. Main St. Mendon, MI 49072 • (269) 496-7708 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Varies – Please call (269) 496-7708	Saturday, May 2 • 9am – 1pm Sunday, May 3 • 9am – 1pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Park Township ***www.park-township.org***	53640 Parkville Rd. Three Rivers, MI 49093 (269) 816-1137	Varies – Please call (269) 816-1137 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Saturday, May 2 • 8am- 12pm Sunday, May 3 • 8am- 12pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
VAN BUREN COUNTY				
Almena Township ***www.almenatownship.gov***	27625 CR., Paw Paw, MI 49079 (269) 668-6910	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am – 4pm	Sunday, May 3 8am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Antwerp Township ***www.antwerptownshipmi.gov***	2481 Front Ave. Mattawan, MI 49071 (269) 668-2615	Monday – Thursday 7am – 5pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm

TDD for all jurisdictions: 1-800-649-3777

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT:

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY (KRESA)
SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE RENEWAL AND RESTORATION PROPOSAL 1.4862 MILLS FOR 6 YEARS AND .0138 MILLS FOR 6 YEARS TO RESTORE MILLAGE REDUCTION
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) Office, 1819 E Milham Ave, Portage, Michigan 49002, telephone: (269) 250-9200.

COLON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL 1.2906 MILLS FOR 8 YEARS
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Colon Community Schools, 400 Dallas St, Colon, Michigan 49040, telephone: (269) 386-2239.

MATTAWAN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW 19.4227 MILLS FOR 4 YEARS
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Mattawan Consolidated School District, 56720 Murray St, Mattawan, Michigan 49071, telephone: (269) 668-3361.

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $11,240,000
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools,1076 N 37th, Galesburg, Michigan 49053, telephone: (269) 484-2000.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $64,135,000
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Vicksburg Community Schools, 301 S Kalamazoo Ave, Vicksburg, Michigan 49097, telephone: (269) 321-1000.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $23,700,000
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Comstock Public Schools, 6138 King Highway, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49048, telephone: (269) 250-8900.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

CITY OF PORTAGE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the City of Portage offices, 7900 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, Michigan 49002, telephone: (269) 329-4511.

Sample ballots may be viewed at www.mi.gov/vote.

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026
LAST DAY FOR VOTER REGISTRATION OTHER THAN IN-PERSON
Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the appropriate clerk's office.
This notice is given as required by law (MCL 168.498(3)).

MEREDITH PLACE, KALAMAZOO COUNTY CLERK & REGISTER OF DEEDS
SARAH M. VANDENBURG, BARRY COUNTY CLERK
KIMBERLY A. HINKLEY, CALHOUN COUNTY CLERK & REGISTER OF DEEDS
GINA EVERSON, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CLERK & REGISTER OF DEEDS
SUZIE ROEHM, VAN BUREN COUNTY CLERK

ON BEHALF OF:

Kalamazoo County

Brady Township
Reagan Hunter, Township Clerk

Charleston Township
Alese LePert, Township Clerk

Climax Township
Sarah DeBoer, Township Clerk

Comstock Township
Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk

Cooper Township
DeAnna Janssen, CMC, Township Clerk

Kalamazoo Township
Lisa Mackie, Township Clerk

Oshtemo Township
Dusty Farmer, Township Clerk

Pavilion Township
Karen E. Siegwart, Township Clerk

Prairie Ronde Township
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Richland Township
Tami Penny, Township Clerk

Ross Township
Mary Stage, Township Clerk

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Eska Brown, Township Clerk

Texas Township
Emily Beutel, Township Clerk

Wakeshma Township
Michael Fry, Township Clerk

Galesburg City
Lisa McNees, City Clerk

Kalamazoo City
Scott A. Borling, CMC, City Clerk

Parchment City
Shannon Stutz, City Clerk

Portage City
Erica Eklov, CMC, City Clerk

Barry County

Barry Township
Deb Knight
Township Clerk

Johnstown Township
Cheri Babcock
Township Clerk

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Rod Goebel
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Calhoun County

Battle Creek City
Victoria Houser
City Clerk

Bedford Township
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Nicole Hardish
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